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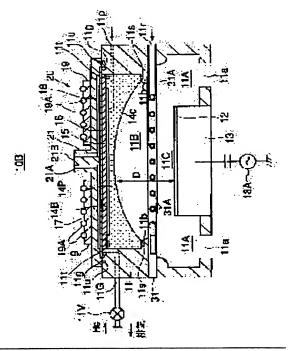
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# (54) PLASMA PROCESSOR

# (57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To compensate the reduction of a plasma density on the periphery of a substrate processed by a microwave plasma processor. SOLUTION: A shower plate or a plasma permeable window facing a substrate to be processed has a concave surface facing the substrate.



# **LEGAL STATUS**

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#### **CLAIMS**

#### [Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] So that it may be formed with an outer wall and the processed substrate on said maintenance base may be met on said processing container with the processing container equipped with the maintenance base holding a processed substrate, and the exhaust air system combined with said processing container The microwave transparency aperture prepared as said some of outer walls, and the plasma gas feed zone which supplies plasma gas into said processing container, It consists of a microwave antenna formed on said processing container corresponding to said microwave. Said microwave transparency aperture Plasma treatment equipment with which the inside of the side which meets said processed substrate is characterized by having the concave surface configuration in which spacing between the flat surfaces which are in agreement with said processed substrate front face decreases toward the direction outside of a path of said microwave transparency aperture.

[Claim 2] Said spacing is plasma treatment equipment according to claim 1 characterized by decreasing continuously toward the direction outside of a path of said microwave transparency aperture.

[Claim 3] Said spacing is plasma treatment equipment according to claim 2 characterized by decreasing smoothly toward the direction outside of a path of said microwave transparency aperture.

[Claim 4] Said spacing is plasma treatment equipment according to claim 2 or 3 characterized by decreasing linearly toward the direction outside of a path of said microwave transparency aperture.

[Claim 5] Said spacing is plasma treatment equipment according to claim 2 or 3 characterized by decreasing in nonlinear toward the direction outside of a path of said microwave transparency aperture.

[Claim 6] Said spacing is plasma treatment equipment according to claim 1 characterized by decreasing stair-like toward the direction outside of a path of said microwave transparency aperture.

[Claim 7] Said spacing is plasma treatment equipment according to claim 1 characterized by decreasing toward the direction outside of a path of said microwave transparency aperture only in the periphery of said microwave transparency aperture.

[Claim 8] Said microwave transparency aperture is plasma treatment equipment given [ among claims 1-7 characterized by the external surface which counters said inside consisting of a flat side ] in any 1 term.

[Claim 9] Said microwave transparency aperture is plasma treatment equipment given [ among claims 1–8 characterized by constituting said plasma gas feed zone which has a plasma gas path inside and emits plasma gas into said processing container ] in any 1 term.

[Claim 10] Said microwave transparency aperture is plasma treatment equipment according to claim 9 characterized by having two or more openings which are open for free passage to said plasma gas path.

[Claim 11] A microwave transparency aperture is plasma treatment equipment according to claim 10 which is close to the cover plate which constitutes some outer walls of said processing

container, and said cover plate, is formed, and is characterized by consisting of a shower plate which has two or more openings which are open for free passage to said plasma gas path and

[Claim 12] Said microwave transparency aperture is plasma treatment equipment according to claim 10 or 11 characterized by consisting of a precise ceramic.

[Claim 13] Said microwave transparency aperture is plasma treatment equipment according to claim 9 characterized by consisting of porous media.

[Claim 14] Said microwave transparency aperture is plasma treatment equipment according to claim 9 characterized by consisting of a cover plate which constitutes said some of processing containers, and a shower plate which consists of porous media formed by being close to said cover plate.

[Claim 15] Said porous media are plasma treatment equipment according to claim 13 or 14 characterized by consisting of a sintering ceramic.

[Claim 16] Said plasma gas feed zone is plasma treatment equipment given [ among claims 1-8 characterized by consisting of tubing connectable with the source of plasma gas formed in said processing container outer wall ] in any 1 term.

[Claim 17] Said microwave transparency aperture is plasma treatment equipment according to claim 16 characterized by consisting of a precise ceramic.

[Claim 18] Furthermore, plasma treatment equipment given [ among claims 1-17 characterized by preparing a raw gas feed zone between said processed substrates and said sources of plasma gas ] in any 1 term.

[Claim 19] Said raw gas feed zone is plasma treatment equipment according to claim 18 characterized by having the plasma path which passes the plasma, a raw gas path connectable with the source of raw gas, and nozzle opening of a large number which were open for free passage to said raw gas path.

[Claim 20] Plasma treatment equipment given [ among claims 1-19 characterized by including the RF generator furthermore connected to said maintenance base ] in any 1 term.

[Claim 21] Said microwave antenna is plasma treatment equipment given [ among claims 1-20 characterized by consisting of a radial line slot antenna J in any 1 term.

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#### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] Generally especially this invention relates to microwave plasma treatment equipment with respect to plasma treatment equipment.

[0002] A plasma treatment process and plasma treatment equipment are close to 0.1 micrometers called the so-called deep submicron component in recent years or a deep subquarter micron component, or are the overly indispensable technique for manufacture of a detailed-ized semiconductor device, and manufacture of the high resolution flat-surface display containing a liquid crystal display of having the gate length not more than it.

[0003] Although the excitation method of more various plasma than before is used as plasma treatment equipment used for manufacture of a semiconductor device or a liquid crystal display, parallel monotonous mold high-frequency excitation plasma treatment equipment or inductive—coupling mold plasma treatment equipment is especially common. However, the plasma formation of plasma treatment equipment of these former is uneven, and since the field where electron density is high is limited, performing a uniform process over the whole processed substrate surface, big processing speed, i.e., throughput, has the difficult trouble. Especially this problem becomes serious when processing the substrate of a major diameter. And with the plasma treatment equipment of these former, since electron temperature is high, a damage arises in the semiconductor device formed on a processed substrate, and that the metal contamination by sputtering of a processing interior wall is large etc. has some essential problems. For this reason, it is becoming difficult to fill the severe demand to the further detailed—izing of a semiconductor device or a liquid crystal display and improvement in the further productivity with conventional plasma treatment equipment.

[0004] The microwave plasma treatment equipment using the high density plasma excited by microwave electric field on the other hand, without using a direct-current magnetic field conventionally is proposed. For example, microwave is emitted in a processing container from the plane antenna (radial line slot antenna) which has the slot of a large number arranged so that uniform microwave might be generated, and the plasma treatment equipment of a configuration of ionizing the gas in a vacuum housing by this microwave electric field, and exciting the plasma is proposed. For example, refer to the JP,9-63793,A official report. It is possible to be able to realize a high plasma consistency over the large field directly under an antenna with the microwave plasma excited by such technique, and to perform uniform plasma treatment for a short time. And with the microwave plasma formed by this technique, in order to excite the plasma by microwave, electron temperature is low, and damage metallurgy group contamination of a processed substrate can be avoided. Since the still more uniform plasma also on a large area substrate can be excited easily, it can respond also to the production process of a semiconductor device and the manufacture of a large-sized liquid crystal display using the diameter semi-conductor substrate of macrostomia easily. [0005]

[Description of the Prior Art] <u>Drawing 1</u> (A) and (B) show the configuration of the conventional microwave plasma treatment equipment 100 using this radial line slot antenna. However, it is

drawing in which drawing 1 (A) shows the sectional view of microwave plasma treatment equipment 100, and drawing 1 (B) shows the configuration of a radial line slot antenna. [0006] With reference to drawing 1 (A), microwave plasma treatment equipment 100 has the processing room 101 exhausted from two or more exhaust air ports 116, and the maintenance base 115 holding the processed substrate 114 is formed all over said processing room 101. Since uniform exhaust air of said processing room 101 is realized, space 101A is formed in the perimeter of said maintenance base 115 in the shape of a ring, it is regular intervals like, namely, said processing room 101 can be exhausted to homogeneity through said space 101A and the exhaust air port 116 by [ which open said two or more exhaust air ports 116 for free passage to said space 101A ] forming in axial symmetry to a processed substrate.

[0007] On said processing room 101, the tabular shower plate 103 which it became [ plate ] a location corresponding to the processed substrate 114 on said maintenance base 115 from the low loss dielectric, and had much openings 107 formed in it as some outer walls of said processing room 101 is formed through the seal ring 109, and the cover plate 102 which consists of a low loss dielectric still as well as the outside of said shower plate 103 is formed through another seal ring 108.

[0008] The path 104 of plasma gas is formed in the top face at said shower plate 103, and each of two or more of said openings 107 is formed so that it may be open for free passage to said plasma gas path 104. furthermore, inside said shower plate 103 The supply path 108 of the plasma gas which is open for free passage to the plasma gas supply port 105 established in the outer wall of said processing container 101 is formed. The plasma gas supplied to said plasma gas supply port 105, such as Ar and Kr Said opening 107 is supplied through said path 104 from said supply path 108, and it is substantially emitted to space 101B of said shower plate 103 directly under of said processing container 101 interior by uniform concentration from said opening 107.

[0009] On said processing container 101, further, it estranges 4–5mm from said cover plate 102, and the radial line slot antenna 110 which has the radial plane shown in <u>drawing 1</u> (B) is formed in the outside of said cover plate 102. It connects with the external source of microwave (not shown) through coaxial waveguide 110A, and said radial line slot antenna 110 excites the plasma gas emitted to said space 101B by the microwave from said source of microwave. Atmospheric air is filled up with the clearance between said cover plate 102 and the radial plane of the radial line slot antenna 110.

[0010] Said radial line slot antenna 110 Flat disk-like body of antenna 110B connected to the outside waveguide of said coaxial waveguide 110A, It consists of radiation plate 110C which had slot 110b of a large number which intersect perpendicularly with much slot 110a and this which were formed in opening of said body of antenna 110B, and which show drawing 1 (B) formed. Between said body of antenna 110B, and said radiation plate 110C, late phase plate 110D which thickness becomes from a fixed dielectric plate is inserted.

[0011] In the radial line slot antenna 110 of this configuration, although the microwave to which electric power was supplied from said coaxial waveguide 110 advances between body of antenna 110B of the shape of said disk, and radiation plate 110C with breadth to radial, wavelength is compressed by operation of said late phase plate 110D in that case, then, the wavelength of the microwave which does in this way and advances to radial — corresponding — said slots 110a and 110b — concentric circular — and the plane wave which has a circularly—polarized wave can be substantially emitted in the perpendicular direction by forming so that it may intersect perpendicularly mutually at said radiation plate 110C.

[0012] The uniform high density plasma is formed in space 101B of said shower plate 103 directly under by using this radial line slot antenna 110. Thus, the metal contamination which electron temperature is low, therefore a damage does not arise in the processed substrate 114, and originates in sputtering of the container wall of the processing container 101 does not produce the formed high density plasma.

[0013] With the plasma treatment equipment 100 of <u>drawing 1</u>, further between said shower plates 103 and processed substrates 114 among said processing container 101 The structure 111 is formed, the conductor which had the nozzle 113 of a large number which supply raw gas

through the raw gas path 112 formed into said processing container 101 from the external source of raw gas (not shown) formed — the raw gas with which each of said nozzle 113 was supplied — said conductor — it emits to space 101C between the structure 111 and the processed substrate 114. said conductor — opening of magnitude which passes efficiently the plasma formed in said space 101B among said adjoining nozzles 113 and 113 by diffusion from said space 101B to said space 101C is formed in the structure 111.

[0014] then — such — said conductor — when raw gas is emitted to said space 101C through said nozzle 113 from the structure 111, the emitted raw gas is excited by the high density plasma formed in said space 101B, and it is performed, without [ without uniform plasma treatment moreover makes efficient and a high speed damage the component structure on a substrate and a substrate on said processed substrate 114, and ] polluting a substrate. the microwave emitted from said radial line slot antenna 110 on the other hand — this conductor — it is prevented with the structure 111 and the processed substrate 114 is not damaged [0015]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] by the way, with the conventional plasma treatment equipment 100 of drawing 1 (A) and (B) Since spacing between said shower plates 103 and processed substrates 114 is narrow, Although very uniform plasma treatment becomes possible even if the continuous and stable plasma style to the direction of a path of the shower plate 103 is formed in said space 101B and 101C and said processed substrate 114 is a diameter substrate of macrostomia On the other hand, when the pressure in said processing container 101 declines, the problem to which a plasma consistency tends to fall especially in the periphery of the shower plate 103 arises. For example, when the pressure in the processing container 101 falls to 300 or less mTorrs in Ar ambient atmosphere, in the periphery of the shower plate 103, a plasma consistency falls greatly. Diffusion of the dissociated electron is promoted and this is considered to originate in disappearing by the internal surface of the processing container 101, when the pressure in the processing container 101 declines. When it falls below to the cut-off consistency which requires a plasma consistency, it becomes impossible to maintain the plasma, since the cut-off consistency of the plasma is 7.5x1010cm-3. Microwave will be directly impressed to the processed substrate 114, and the fall of the plasma consistency in this shower plate 103 periphery not only causes the fall of processing speed, but produces the problem which carries out induction of the damage.

[0016] Then, this invention makes it a general technical problem to offer the new and useful plasma treatment equipment which solved the conventional technical problem.

[0017] The more concrete technical problem of this invention is to offer the plasma treatment equipment in which uniform processing is possible over the whole processed substrate front face also in low processing pressure.

[0018]

[Means for Solving the Problem] The processing container equipped with the maintenance base which this invention is formed with an outer wall as the above-mentioned technical problem was indicated to claim 1, and holds a processed substrate, So that the processed substrate on said maintenance base may be met on said processing container with the exhaust air system combined with said processing container The microwave transparency aperture prepared as said some of outer walls, and the plasma gas feed zone which supplies plasma gas into said processing container, It consists of a microwave antenna formed on said processing container corresponding to said microwave. Said microwave transparency aperture With the plasma treatment equipment with which the inside of the side which meets said processed substrate is characterized by having the concave surface configuration in which spacing between the flat surfaces which are in agreement with said processed substrate front face decreases toward the direction outside of a path of said microwave transparency aperture As indicated to claim 2, or said spacing As indicated to the plasma treatment equipment according to claim 1 characterized by decreasing continuously toward the direction outside of a path of said microwave transparency aperture, or claim 3, said spacing As indicated to the plasma treatment equipment according to claim 2 characterized by decreasing smoothly toward the direction outside of a path of said microwave transparency aperture, or claim 4, said spacing As indicated to the plasma

treatment equipment according to claim 2 or 3 characterized by decreasing linearly toward the direction outside of a path of said microwave transparency aperture, or claim 5, said spacing With the plasma treatment equipment according to claim 2 or 3 characterized by decreasing in nonlinear toward the direction outside of a path of said microwave transparency aperture As indicated to claim 6, or said spacing As indicated to the plasma treatment equipment according to claim 1 characterized by decreasing stair-like toward the direction outside of a path of said microwave transparency aperture, or claim 7, said spacing With the plasma treatment equipment according to claim 1 characterized by decreasing toward the direction outside of a path of said microwave transparency aperture only in the periphery of said microwave transparency aperture As indicated to claim 8, or said microwave transparency aperture With plasma treatment equipment given in any 1 term among claims 1-7 characterized by the external surface which counters said inside consisting of a flat side As indicated to claim 9, or said microwave transparency aperture With plasma treatment equipment given in any 1 term among claims 1-8 characterized by constituting said plasma gas feed zone which has a plasma gas path inside and emits plasma gas into said processing container As indicated to claim 10, or said microwave transparency aperture As indicated to the plasma treatment equipment according to claim 9 characterized by having two or more openings which are open for free passage to said plasma gas path, or claim 11, a microwave transparency aperture It is close to the cover plate which constitutes some outer walls of said processing container, and said cover plate, and is prepared. With the plasma treatment equipment according to claim 9 characterized by consisting of a shower plate which has two or more openings which are open for free passage to said plasma gas path and this As indicated to claim 12, with or the plasma treatment equipment according to claim 8 or 11 characterized by said microwave transparency aperture consisting of a precise ceramic As indicated to claim 13, or said microwave transparency aperture As indicated to the plasma treatment equipment according to claim 9 characterized by consisting of porous media, or claim 14, said microwave transparency aperture With the plasma treatment equipment according to claim 9 characterized by consisting of a cover plate which constitutes said some of processing containers, and a shower plate which consists of porous media formed by being close to said cover plate As indicated to claim 15, or said porous media As indicated to the plasma treatment equipment according to claim 13 or 14 characterized by consisting of a sintering ceramic, or claim 16, said plasma gas feed zone With plasma treatment equipment given in any 1 term among claims 1-8 characterized by consisting of tubing connectable with the source of plasma gas formed in said processing container outer wall As indicated to claim 17, or said microwave transparency aperture With the plasma treatment equipment according to claim 16 characterized by consisting of a precise ceramic As indicated to claim 18, further or between said processed substrates and said sources of plasma gas As indicated to plasma treatment equipment given in any 1 term, or claim 19 among claims 1-17 characterized by preparing a raw gas feed zone, said raw gas feed zone With the plasma treatment equipment according to claim 18 characterized by having the plasma path which passes the plasma, a raw gas path connectable with the source of raw gas, and nozzle opening of a large number which were open for free passage to said raw gas path With or plasma treatment equipment given in any 1 term among claims 1-19 characterized by including the RF generator further connected to said maintenance base as indicated to claim 20 Or as indicated to claim 21, said microwave antenna is solved with plasma treatment equipment given in any 1 term among claims 1-20 characterized by consisting of a radial line slot antenna.

According to [operation] this invention, by forming a concave surface in the side which meets the processed substrate of said shower plate, spacing between the shower plate inferior surfaces of tongue and processed substrate front faces in which the high density plasma is formed in a processed substrate periphery decreases, and the fall of the plasma consistency in a shower plate periphery is compensated. Consequently, also when low-pressure plasma treatment, such as etching, is performed, the stable and uniform plasma is maintained [ near the processed substrate front face ]. Moreover, ignition of the plasma is also promoted by this configuration. Stabilization of the plasma by this concave surface formation is applicable also to the configuration which omitted not only a configuration but the raw gas feed zone which

prepared the raw gas feed zone between a processed substrate and a plasma gas feed zone. [0019] Although it is possible to use the precise ceramic member which had opening of a large number which were open for free passage to a plasma gas path and this formed as a shower plate which has this concave surface, it is also possible to use a porosity ceramic member instead of said precise ceramic member. Although these shower plates are close to the precise cover plate which constitutes a nothing plasma transparency aperture and some processing container outer walls are established, it is also possible to form said crevice in the microwave transparency aperture itself further in this invention, and to introduce plasma gas all over said processing room with tubing etc. separately, without using a shower plate.

[0020] Since cooling of the shower plate which adhesion with a microwave antenna could secure easily that the external surface which counters the inside which makes said concave surface by the shower plate or microwave transparency aperture by this invention was a flat side, and minded the antenna is attained, it is advantageous.

[0021]

[Embodiment of the Invention] [1st example] <u>drawing 2</u> (A) and (B) show the configuration of the microwave plasma treatment equipment 10 by the 1st example of this invention.

[0022] With reference to drawing 2 (A), said microwave plasma treatment equipment 10 The processing container 11, It is prepared in said processing container 11, and the maintenance base 13 which consists of AlN or aluminum 203 which holds the processed substrate 12 by the electrostatic chuck, and which was preferably formed of the isotropic pressure inflatable flexible bag technique (HIP) between heat is included. In said processing container 11, at least two exhaust air port 11a is preferably formed by \*\*\*\* symmetric relation at three or more places at space 11A surrounding said maintenance base 13 to the processed substrate 12 on regular intervals 13, i.e., said maintenance base. Said processing container 11 minds this exhaust air port 11a, and is exhausted and decompressed by an irregular—pitch inequality inclination screw pump etc.

[0023] Said processing container 11 consists of an austenitic stainless steel which contains aluminum preferably, and the protective coat which consists of an aluminum oxide by oxidation treatment is formed in the internal surface. Moreover, the shower plate 14 of the shape of a disk which it consisted [ shape ] of precise aluminum 203 formed by the HIP method, and had much nozzle opening 14A formed is formed in the part corresponding to said processed substrate 12 as said some of outer walls among the outer walls of said processing container 11. 14 is formed using the aluminum203 shower plateY203 formed by this HIP method as sintering acid, and has the very big thermal conductivity as a ceramic to which porosity reaches 30 W/m-K excluding pore or a pinhole substantially at 0.03% or less.

[0024] It is equipped with said shower plate 14 through seal ring 11s on said processing container 11, and the cover plate 15 which consists of precise aluminum 203 further formed of the same HIP processing on said shower plate 14 is formed through seal ring 11t. Crevice 14B which is open for free passage at each of said nozzle opening 14A to the side which touches said cover plate 15 of said shower plate 14, and becomes plasma gas passage is formed, and said crevice 14B is open for free passage to another plasma gas passage 14C which is open for free passage to plasma gas inlet-port 11p which was formed in the interior of said shower plate 14, and was formed in the outer wall of said processing container 11.

[0025] In order that said shower plate 14 may control abnormality discharge into the part which was formed in the wall of said processing container 11 and which \*\*\*\*\*\*\*s, is held by section 11b and holds said shower plate 14 among said overhang section 11b, the radius of circle is formed. [0026] Then, after the plasma gas supplied to said plasma gas inlet-port 11p, such as Ar and Kr, carries out sequential passage of the passage 14C and 14B of said shower plate 14 interior, it is uniformly supplied into space 11B of said shower plate 14 directly under through said opening 14A.

[0027] The slot plate 16 of the shape of a disk which had many slots 16a and 16b which are close to said cover plate 15, and are shown in <u>drawing 3</u> (B) formed on said cover plate 15, The body 17 of an antenna of the shape of a disk holding said slot plate 16, The radial line slot antenna 20 constituted with the late phase plate 18 which consists of low loss dielectric

materials of aluminum [ which was pinched between said slot plates 16 and said bodies 17 of an antenna ] 203, Si3N4, SiON, or SiO2 grade is formed. It is equipped with said radial slot line antenna 20 through seal ring 11u on said processing container 11, and the microwave whose frequency is 2.45GHz or 8.3GHz is supplied to said radial line slot antenna 20 from the external source of microwave (not shown) through the coaxial waveguide 21 which has a rectangle or a circular cross section. The supplied microwave is emitted into said processing container 11 through said cover plate 15 and the shower plate 14 from the slots 16a and 16b on said slot plate 16, and excites the plasma in space 11B of said shower plate 14 directly under in the plasma gas supplied from said opening 14A from it. In that case, said cover plate 15 and the shower plate 14 are formed of aluminum 203, and act as an efficient microwave transparency aperture. In order to avoid that the plasma is excited in said plasma gas passage 14A–14C in that case, said plasma gas is held in said passage 14A–14C at the pressure of about 6666Pa – 13332Pa (about 50 to 100 Torr).

[0028] In order to raise the adhesion of said radial line slot antenna 20 and said cover plate 15, 11g of ring-like slots is formed in a part of top face of said processing container 11 which engages with said slot plate 16 with the microwave plasma treatment equipment 10 of this example. By exhausting 11g of these slots through exhaust air port 11G which were open for free passage to this The clearance formed between said slot plates 16 and cover plates 15 is decompressed, and an atmospheric pressure enables it to push said radial line slot antenna 20 against said cover plate 15 firmly. Although the slots 16a and 16b formed in said slot plate 16 are included, a clearance may be formed in this clearance of various reasons of irregularity with cover-plate 15 detailed front face etc. besides it. The closure of this clearance is carried out by seal ring 11u between said radial line slot antennas 20 and processing containers 11. [0029] By furthermore filling up the clearance between said slot plates 16 and said cover plates 15 with inert gas with small molecular weight through said exhaust air port 11G and 15g of slots, transportation of the heat from said cover plate 15 to said slot plate 16 can be promoted. As this inert gas, it is desirable that thermal conductivity, large moreover, uses high helium of ionization energy. When filling up said clearance with helium, it is desirable to set it as the pressure of 0.8 atmospheric-pressure extent. With the configuration of drawing 3, bulb 11V are connected to said exhaust air port 11G for exhaust air of 15g of said slots, and restoration of

[0030] Outside waveguide 21A is connected to the body 17 of an antenna of the shape of said disk among said coaxial waveguide 21A, and central conductor 21B is connected to said slot plate 16 through opening formed in said slow wave plate 18. Then, the microwave supplied to said coaxial waveguide 21A is emitted from said slots 16a and 16b, going on between said bodies 17 of an antenna and slot plates 16 in the direction of a path.

[0031] Drawing 2 (B) shows the slots 16a and 16b formed on said slot plate 16.

[0032] With reference to drawing 2 (B), said slot 16a is arranged by concentric circular, and, similarly slot 16b which goes to this direct is formed in concentric circular corresponding to each slot 16a. Said slots 16a and 16b are formed at spacing corresponding to the wavelength of the microwave compressed into radial [ of said slot plate 16 ] with said late phase plate 18, and as a result, microwave turns into an approximate plane wave from said slot plate 16, and is emitted. Since said slots 16a and 16b are formed by the relation relation and mutual cross at right angles in that case, the microwave emitted by doing in this way forms the circularly-polarized wave containing two polarization components which intersect perpendicularly.

[0033] With the plasma treatment equipment 10 of this example, the front face of the side which meets said processed substrate 12 of said shower plate 14 forms the curve side of a concave surface configuration, and the spacing D between the flat surfaces which are in agreement with the front face of said shower plate 14 and processed substrate 12 as a result decreases smoothly toward the method of the outside of the improvement in the method of a radius of said shower plate 14. That is, said concave surface configuration is formed by the curved surface symmetrical with a shaft, and in order that said spacing D may decrease in the periphery of said processed substrate 12, the problem of a fall of the plasma consistency in this processed substrate periphery is solved.

15g [ of slots ] inert gas.

[0034] Thereby, with said plasma treatment equipment 10, even if it performs plasma treatment with the need of carrying out by hypobaric environment—ization, such as dry etching, a plasma consistency does not fall below to a cut—off consistency, and the plasma is maintained by stability and can avoid problems, such as disappearance of the plasma in processed substrate 12 periphery, damage on the substrate by microwave, or a fall of processing speed.

[0035] Furthermore with the plasma treatment equipment 10 of drawing 2 (A), the cooling block 19 which had cooling water path 19A formed is formed on said body 17 of an antenna, and the heat accumulated in said shower plate 14 is absorbed through said radial line slot antenna 20 by cooling said cooling block 19 with the cooling water in said cooling water path 19A. It lets the cooling water which said cooling water path 19A is formed in the shape of a spiral on said cooling block 19, and eliminated dissolved oxygen by carrying out bubbling of the H2 gas preferably, and controlled the oxidation reduction potential pass.

[0036] moreover, with the microwave plasma treatment equipment 10 of drawing 2 (A) Among said processing container 11 between said shower plates 14 and processed substrates 12 on said maintenance base 13 The raw gas supply structure 31 of having raw gas path 31A of the shape of a grid which raw gas is supplied from raw gas inlet 11r prepared in the outer wall of said processing container 11, and emits this from much raw gas nozzle orifice section 31B (refer to drawing 3) is established. Desired uniform substrate processing is made in space 11C between said raw gas supply structures 31 and said processed substrates 12. Plasma oxidation processing, plasma nitriding treatment, plasma acid nitriding treatment, plasma—CVD processing, etc. are included in this substrate processing. Moreover, it is possible to perform reactive ion etching to said processed substrate 12 by supplying etching gas, such as fluorocarbon gas which is [6 / C4F8, C5F8, / C4F] easy to dissociate, and F system or Cl system, from said raw gas supply structure 31 to said space 11C, and impressing high—frequency voltage to said maintenance base 13 from RF generator 13A.

[0037] with the microwave plasma treatment equipment 10 by this example, adhesion of a reaction by-product etc. in a processing container wall avoids the outer wall of said processing container 11 by heating to 150-degree about C temperature — having — a day — about 1 time of dry-cleaning \*\*\*\* — it is things and stabilizing and operating is possible regularly.

[0038] Drawing 4 is the bottom view showing the configuration of the raw gas supply structure 31 in the configuration of drawing 2 (A).

[0039] With reference to drawing 4, it consists of conductors containing Mg, such as aluminum alloy and aluminum addition stainless steel, and said grid-like raw gas path 31A is connected to said raw gas inlet 11r in raw gas supply-port 31R, and said raw gas supply structure 31 emits raw gas to homogeneity at said space 11C from raw gas nozzle orifice section 31B of a large number by which inferior-surface-of-tongue formation was carried out. Moreover, opening 31C which passes the raw gas contained in the plasma or the plasma is formed between raw gas path 31A which adjoins said raw gas supply structure 31. When forming said raw gas supply structure 31 with a Mg content aluminum alloy, it is desirable to form the fluoride film in a front face. Moreover, when forming said raw gas supply structure 31 by aluminum addition stainless steel, it is desirable to form the passive state film of an aluminum oxide in a front face. With the plasma treatment equipment 10 by this invention, since the electron temperature in the plasma which is excited and which is excited is low, the incidence energy of the plasma is small, and the problem which sputtering of this raw gas supply structure 31 is carried out, and metal contamination produces in the processed substrate 12 is avoided. Said raw gas supply structure 31 can also be formed with ceramics, such as an alumina.

[0040] Said grid-like raw gas path 31A and raw gas nozzle orifice section 31B are prepared so that a little larger field than the processed substrate 12 shown in drawing 4 with the broken line may be covered. By establishing this raw gas supply structure 31 between said shower plates 14 and processed substrates 12, plasma excitation of the raw gas, such as material gas and etching gas, is carried out, and this raw gas by which plasma excitation was carried out enables it to process to homogeneity.

[0041] In forming said raw gas supply structure 31 with conductors, such as a metal, said raw gas supply structure 31 forms the short circuit side of microwave by setting up shorter than the

wavelength of said microwave said spacing between grid-like raw gas path 31A. In this case, the microwave excitation of the plasma is produced in said space 11B, and raw gas is activated by the plasma diffused from said excitation space 11B in space 11C including the front face of said processed substrate 12.

[0042] Since supply of raw gas is uniformly controlled by the microwave plasma treatment equipment 10 by this example by using the raw gas supply structure 31, even when the problem of superfluous dissociation in processed substrate 12 front face of raw gas can be solved and the large structure of an aspect ratio is formed in the front face of the processed substrate 12, it is possible to carry out desired substrate processing even in the inner part of this high aspect structure. That is, microwave plasma treatment equipment 10 is effective in manufacture of many generations' semiconductor device with which the design Ruhr differs.

[0043] In plasma treatment equipment 10B of <u>drawing 5</u>, it is possible by introducing various oxidization gas and nitriding gas, material gas, and etching gas from said raw gas supply structure 13 to be low temperature, to deposit various high quality film on homogeneity all over the front face of said processed substrate 12, even if said processed substrate 12 is a diameter substrate of macrostomia, or to etch said front face into homogeneity.

[0044] <u>Drawing 4</u> shows the configuration of the shower plates 141-144 by various modifications of said shower plate 14.

[0045] With reference to drawing 4, said shower plate 142 is understood that said shower plate 141 has the concave surface of a truncated—cone configuration to having the concave surface of a cone configuration in the side which meets said processed substrate 12. Furthermore on said shower plate 143, the circular crevice forms the level difference configuration, and two or more level difference configuration crevices are formed on said shower plate 144. These crevices are formed in axial symmetry by each to the medial axis of said shower plate, and uniform processing is guaranteed around said medial axis.

[2nd example] drawing 5 shows the configuration of plasma treatment equipment 10A by the 2nd example of this invention. However, the same reference mark is given to the part explained previously among drawing 5, and explanation is omitted.

[0046] Although plasma treatment equipment 10A has said plasma treatment equipment 10 and a similar configuration with reference to <u>drawing 5</u> and the spacing D of said processed substrate 12 and shower plate 14 decreases toward the method of the outside of the improvement in the method of a radius of said shower plate 14, in said plasma treatment equipment 10A, said raw gas feed zone 13 is removed.

[0047] Although raw gas cannot be supplied and neither membrane formation nor etching can be performed apart from plasma gas in plasma treatment equipment 10B of this configuration since said lower—berth shower plate 31 is omitted, it is possible by supplying oxidation gas or nitriding gas with plasma gas from said shower plate 14 to form an oxide film, a nitride, or an acid nitride in a processed substrate front face. In plasma treatment equipment 10A of this example, it is possible for a configuration to be simplified and to reduce manufacture costs greatly.

[0048] Also in this example, since said spacing D decreases in the periphery of the processed substrate 12, the fall of the plasma consistency in processed substrate 12 periphery is compensated, the plasma is maintained by stability, and problems, such as disappearance of the plasma in processed substrate 12 periphery, damage on the substrate by microwave, or a fall of processing speed, can be avoided.

[0049] In especially plasma treatment equipment 10A of <u>drawing 5</u>, it is possible to be low temperature and to carry out efficiently oxidation treatment and nitriding treatment of the processed substrate 12, acid nitriding treatment, etc. to homogeneity at cheap costs, even if said processed substrate is a diameter substrate of macrostomia.

[0050] Also in this example, it is possible to use the shower plates 141–143 explained by <u>drawing</u> 4 instead of said shower plate 14.

[3rd example] drawing 6 shows the configuration of plasma treatment equipment 10B by the 3rd example of this invention. However, the same reference mark is given to the part corresponding to the part explained previously among drawing 6, and explanation is omitted.

[0051] With reference to drawing 6, sintered alumina etc. uses shower plate 14P which consist

of a porosity ceramic instead of said shower plate 14 in this example.

[0052] Although opening so that shower 14A in the shower plate 14 is not formed into said shower plate 14P, the plasma gas which the plasma gas supply ways 14C and 14B connected to plasma gas supply—port 11P are formed, and was supplied passes along the pore in said porosity shower plate 14P from said plasma gas supply way 14B, and is uniformly emitted to said space 11B.

[0053] Also in this example, said inferior surface of tongue of shower plate 14P forms a concave surface symmetrical with a shaft, and the spacing D between said inferior surfaces of tongue and front faces of the processed substrate 12 decreases toward the periphery of the processed substrate 12. For this reason, in the configuration of <u>drawing 6</u>, the fall of the plasma consistency in the periphery of said processed substrate 12 is compensated, the plasma is maintained by stability, and problems, such as disappearance of the plasma in processed substrate 12 periphery, damage on the substrate by microwave, or a fall of processing speed, can be avoided.

[0054] In plasma treatment equipment 10B of <u>drawing 6</u>, it is possible by introducing various oxidization gas and nitriding gas, material gas, and etching gas from said raw gas supply structure 13 to be low temperature, and to deposit various high quality film on homogeneity all over the front face of said processed substrate 12, or to etch said front face into homogeneity.

[0055] Also in this example, various concave surfaces shown in <u>drawing 4</u> can be formed as said concave surface of porosity shower plate 14P.

[4th example] <u>drawing 7</u> shows the configuration of plasma treatment equipment 10C by the 4th example of this invention. However, the same reference mark is given to the part explained previously among <u>drawing 7</u>, and explanation is omitted.

[0056] Although plasma treatment equipment 10C of this example has the same configuration as previous plasma treatment equipment 10B with reference to <u>drawing 7</u>, said lower—berth shower plate 31 is removed. Moreover, the radius of circle is formed all over said overhang section 11b holding said shower plate 14.

[0057] Although raw gas cannot be supplied and neither membrane formation nor etching can be performed apart from plasma gas in plasma treatment equipment 10C of this configuration since said lower-berth shower plate 31 is omitted, it is possible by supplying oxidation gas or nitriding gas with plasma gas from said shower plate 14 to form an oxide film, a nitride, or an acid nitride in a processed substrate front face.

[0058] Also in this example, said inferior surface of tongue of shower plate 14P forms a concave surface symmetrical with a shaft, and the spacing D between said inferior surfaces of tongue and front faces of the processed substrate 12 decreases toward the periphery of the processed substrate 12. For this reason, in the configuration of <u>drawing 7</u>, the fall of the plasma consistency in the periphery of said processed substrate 12 is compensated, the plasma is maintained by stability, and problems, such as disappearance of the plasma in processed substrate 12 periphery, damage on the substrate by microwave, or a fall of processing speed, can be avoided.

[0059] In especially plasma treatment equipment 10C of <u>drawing 7</u>, it is possible to be low temperature and to carry out efficiently oxidation treatment and nitriding treatment of the processed substrate 12, acid nitriding treatment, etc. to homogeneity at cheap costs, even if said processed substrate is a diameter substrate of macrostomia.

[0060] Also in shower plate 14P of this example, various concave surfaces shown in <u>drawing 4</u> can be used.

[5th example] <u>drawing 8</u> shows the configuration of plasma treatment equipment 10D by the 5th example of this invention. However, the same reference mark is given to the part explained previously among <u>drawing 8</u>, and explanation is omitted.

[0061] With reference to drawing 8, in an example, porosity shower plate 14P and the cover plate 15 in the example of drawing 6 are removed, and microwave transparency aperture 14Q which becomes the side which meets said processed substrate 12 instead from the precise ceramic which has a concave surface is prepared. Said microwave transparency aperture 14 can be formed with an ingredient with little dielectric loss, for example, the alumina which carried out

# HIP processing.

[0062] With the configuration of drawing 8, although said microwave transparency aperture 14Q achieves the function of said cover plate 15, opening 14A which is open for free passage to plasma gas path 14C and this in the example of drawing 6 is not formed, but the plasma gas induction which becomes the outer wall of the processing container 11 from tubing 11P is formed independently. Moreover, on said microwave transparency aperture 14Q, it is [ the radial line slot antenna 20 ] close, and it is formed. As for said plasma gas installation tubing 11P, it is desirable to be symmetrically arranged in the perimeter of said processed substrate 12. [0063] With this configuration, the inferior surface of tongue of said microwave transparency aperture 14Q forms a concave surface symmetrical with a shaft, and the spacing D between said inferior surfaces of tongue and front faces of the processed substrate 12 decreases toward the periphery of the processed substrate 12. For this reason, in the configuration of drawing 8, the fall of the plasma consistency in the periphery of said processed substrate 12 is compensated, the plasma is maintained by stability, and problems, such as disappearance of the plasma in processed substrate 12 periphery, damage on the substrate by microwave, or a fall of processing speed, can be avoided.

[0064] In especially plasma treatment equipment 10D of <u>drawing 8</u>, it is possible to be low temperature and to carry out efficiently oxidation treatment and nitriding treatment of the processed substrate 12, acid nitriding treatment, etc. to homogeneity at cheap costs, even if said processed substrate is a diameter substrate of macrostomia. The configuration for introducing especially plasma gas is simplified, and it contributes to reduction of costs. [0065] Also in the plasma transparency aperture of this example, various concave surfaces shown in <u>drawing 4</u> can be used.

[6th example] drawing 9 shows the configuration of plasma treatment equipment 10E by the 6th example of this invention. However, the same reference mark is given to the part explained previously among drawing 9, and explanation is omitted.

[0066] Although plasma treatment equipment 10E of this example has previous plasma treatment equipment 10D and a similar configuration with reference to drawing 9, said raw gas supply structure 31 is removed.

[0067] According to this configuration, it becomes possible by supplying nitriding nature gas, such as oxidizing gases, such as inert gas, such as Kr and Ar, and O2 gas, NH3 gas, or mixed gas of N2 and H2, from said plasma gas installation tubing 11P to form efficiently the oxide film, nitride, or acid nitride of high quality in the front face of said processed substrate 12 at low temperature.

[0068] Since the spacing D between the inferior surface of tongue of said microwave transparency aperture 14Q and the processed substrate 12 is decreasing in the periphery of said processed substrate 12 by this example in that case, sufficient plasma consistency is secured in said processed substrate 12 periphery, and processing of said processed substrate 12 is carried out to homogeneity.

[0069] Also in microwave aperture 14Q of this example, various concave surfaces shown in drawing 4 can be used.

[7th example] drawing 10 shows the configuration of plasma treatment equipment 10F by the 7th example of this invention. However, the same reference mark is given to the part explained previously among drawing 10, and explanation is omitted.

[0070] With reference to <u>drawing 10</u>, this examples are consisted of by dielectric window 14Q' of uniform thickness instead of said dielectric window 14Q.

[0071] In this dielectric window 14Q', a top face forms a convex corresponding to the inferior surface of tongue which forms a concave surface. So, with the plasma treatment equipment 10 of <u>drawing 10</u>, radial line slot antenna 20' which has a concave surface corresponding to said convex is used instead of said flat radial line slot antenna 20. namely, slot plate 16' in which said radial line slot antenna 20' forms a concave surface — having — said slot plate 16 — it is equipped through 'the late phase plate 18 with which body of antenna 17' which forms a concave surface upwards curved in between'.

[0072] Also in plasma treatment equipment 10F of this configuration, by being able to

compensate the fall of the plasma consistency in the periphery of said processed substrate 12, and supplying more various raw gas than said raw gas feed zone 31, it crosses all over the processed substrate 12, and it becomes possible to carry out uniformly various plasma treatment, such as oxidization, nitriding, acid nitriding, deposition of still more various layers, and etching, to stability.

[8th example] <u>drawing 11</u> shows the configuration of plasma treatment equipment 10G by the 8th example of this invention. However, the same reference mark is given to the part explained previously among drawing 11, and explanation is omitted.

[0073] Although plasma treatment equipment 10G of this example have the same configuration as plasma treatment equipment 10F of a previous example with reference to <u>drawing 11</u>, in this example, said raw gas feed zone 31 is removed.

[0074] Also in plasma treatment equipment 10G of this configuration, the fall of the plasma consistency in the periphery of said processed substrate 12 can be compensated, it crosses all over the processed substrate 12, and it becomes possible to carry out uniform plasma treatment, such as oxidation, and nitriding, acid nitriding, to stability.

[0075] Various deformation and modification are possible for this invention in the summary of this invention which it is not limited to the above-mentioned specific example, and was indicated to the claim.

[0076]

[Effect of the Invention] According to this invention, the fall of the plasma consistency in the periphery of a processed substrate can be compensated, the plasma is maintained also in low voltage processing, and stable plasma treatment becomes possible.

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#### TECHNICAL FIELD

[Field of the Invention] Generally especially this invention relates to microwave plasma treatment equipment with respect to plasma treatment equipment.

[0002] A plasma treatment process and plasma treatment equipment are close to 0.1 micrometers called the so-called deep submicron component in recent years or a deep subquarter micron component, or are the overly indispensable technique for manufacture of a detailed-ized semiconductor device, and manufacture of the high resolution flat-surface display containing a liquid crystal display of having the gate length not more than it.

[0003] Although the excitation method of more various plasma than before is used as plasma

[0003] Although the excitation method of more various plasma than before is used as plasma treatment equipment used for manufacture of a semiconductor device or a liquid crystal display, parallel monotonous mold high-frequency excitation plasma treatment equipment or inductive—coupling mold plasma treatment equipment is especially common. However, the plasma formation of plasma treatment equipment of these former is uneven, and since the field where electron density is high is limited, performing a uniform process over the whole processed substrate surface, big processing speed, i.e., throughput, has the difficult trouble. Especially this problem becomes serious when processing the substrate of a major diameter. And with the plasma treatment equipment of these former, since electron temperature is high, a damage arises in the semiconductor device formed on a processed substrate, and that the metal contamination by sputtering of a processing interior wall is large etc. has some essential problems. For this reason, it is becoming difficult to fill the severe demand to the further detailed—izing of a semiconductor device or a liquid crystal display and improvement in the further productivity with conventional plasma treatment equipment.

[0004] The microwave plasma treatment equipment using the high density plasma excited by microwave electric field on the other hand, without using a direct-current magnetic field conventionally is proposed. For example, microwave is emitted in a processing container from the plane antenna (radial line slot antenna) which has the slot of a large number arranged so that uniform microwave might be generated, and the plasma treatment equipment of a configuration of ionizing the gas in a vacuum housing by this microwave electric field, and exciting the plasma is proposed. For example, refer to the JP,9-63793,A official report. It is possible to be able to realize a high plasma consistency over the large field directly under an antenna with the microwave plasma excited by such technique, and to perform uniform plasma treatment for a short time. And with the microwave plasma formed by this technique, in order to excite the plasma by microwave, electron temperature is low, and damage metallurgy group contamination of a processed substrate can be avoided. Since the still more uniform plasma also on a large area substrate can be excited easily, it can respond also to the production process of a semiconductor device and the manufacture of a large-sized liquid crystal display using the diameter semi-conductor substrate of macrostomia easily.

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#### PRIOR ART

[Description of the Prior Art] <u>Drawing 1</u> (A) and (B) show the configuration of the conventional microwave plasma treatment equipment 100 using this radial line slot antenna. However, it is drawing in which <u>drawing 1</u> (A) shows the sectional view of microwave plasma treatment equipment 100, and <u>drawing 1</u> (B) shows the configuration of a radial line slot antenna. [0006] With reference to <u>drawing 1</u> (A), microwave plasma treatment equipment 100 has the processing room 101 exhausted from two or more exhaust air ports 116, and the maintenance base 115 holding the processed substrate 114 is formed all over said processing room 101. Since uniform exhaust air of said processing room 101 is realized, space 101A is formed in the perimeter of said maintenance base 115 in the shape of a ring, it is regular intervals like, namely, said processing room 101 can be exhausted to homogeneity through said space 101A and the exhaust air port 116 by [ which open said two or more exhaust air ports 116 for free passage to said space 101A] forming in axial symmetry to a processed substrate.

[0007] On said processing room 101, the tabular shower plate 103 which it became [ plate ] a location corresponding to the processed substrate 114 on said maintenance base 115 from the low loss dielectric, and had much openings 107 formed in it as some outer walls of said processing room 101 is formed through the seal ring 109, and the cover plate 102 which consists of a low loss dielectric still as well as the outside of said shower plate 103 is formed through another seal ring 108.

[0008] The path 104 of plasma gas is formed in the top face at said shower plate 103, and each of two or more of said openings 107 is formed so that it may be open for free passage to said plasma gas path 104. furthermore, inside said shower plate 103 The supply path 108 of the plasma gas which is open for free passage to the plasma gas supply port 105 established in the outer wall of said processing container 101 is formed. The plasma gas supplied to said plasma gas supply port 105, such as Ar and Kr Said opening 107 is supplied through said path 104 from said supply path 108, and it is substantially emitted to space 101B of said shower plate 103 directly under of said processing container 101 interior by uniform concentration from said opening 107.

[0009] On said processing container 101, further, it estranges 4–5mm from said cover plate 102, and the radial line slot antenna 110 which has the radial plane shown in <u>drawing 1</u> (B) is formed in the outside of said cover plate 102. It connects with the external source of microwave (not shown) through coaxial waveguide 110A, and said radial line slot antenna 110 excites the plasma gas emitted to said space 101B by the microwave from said source of microwave. Atmospheric air is filled up with the clearance between said cover plate 102 and the radial plane of the radial line slot antenna 110.

[0010] Said radial line slot antenna 110 Flat disk-like body of antenna 110B connected to the outside waveguide of said coaxial waveguide 110A, It consists of radiation plate 110C which had slot 110b of a large number which intersect perpendicularly with much slot 110a and this which were formed in opening of said body of antenna 110B, and which show drawing 1 (B) formed. Between said body of antenna 110B, and said radiation plate 110C, late phase plate 110D which thickness becomes from a fixed dielectric plate is inserted.

[0011] In the radial line slot antenna 110 of this configuration, although the microwave to which

electric power was supplied from said coaxial waveguide 110 advances between body of antenna 110B of the shape of said disk, and radiation plate 110C with breadth to radial, wavelength is compressed by operation of said late phase plate 110D in that case, then, the wavelength of the microwave which does in this way and advances to radial — corresponding — said slots 110a and 110b — concentric circular — and the plane wave which has a circularly—polarized wave can be substantially emitted in the perpendicular direction by forming so that it may intersect perpendicularly mutually at said radiation plate 110C.

[0012] The uniform high density plasma is formed in space 101B of said shower plate 103 directly under by using this radial line slot antenna 110. Thus, the metal contamination which electron temperature is low, therefore a damage does not arise in the processed substrate 114, and originates in sputtering of the container wall of the processing container 101 does not produce the formed high density plasma.

[0013] With the plasma treatment equipment 100 of drawing 1, further between said shower plates 103 and processed substrates 114 among said processing container 101. The structure 111 is formed, the conductor which had the nozzle 113 of a large number which supply raw gas through the raw gas path 112 formed into said processing container 101 from the external source of raw gas (not shown) formed — the raw gas with which each of said nozzle 113 was supplied — said conductor — it emits to space 101C between the structure 111 and the processed substrate 114, said conductor — opening of magnitude which passes efficiently the plasma formed in said space 101B among said adjoining nozzles 113 and 113 by diffusion from said space 101B to said space 101C is formed in the structure 111.

[0014] then — such — said conductor — when raw gas is emitted to said space 101C through said nozzle 113 from the structure 111, the emitted raw gas is excited by the high density plasma formed in said space 101B, and it is performed, without [ without uniform plasma treatment moreover makes efficient and a high speed damage the component structure on a substrate and a substrate on said processed substrate 114, and ] polluting a substrate. the microwave emitted from said radial line slot antenna 110 on the other hand — this conductor — it is prevented with the structure 111 and the processed substrate 114 is not damaged

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# **EFFECT OF THE INVENTION**

[Effect of the Invention] According to this invention, the fall of the plasma consistency in the periphery of a processed substrate can be compensated, the plasma is maintained also in low voltage processing, and stable plasma treatment becomes possible.

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#### **TECHNICAL PROBLEM**

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] by the way, with the conventional plasma treatment equipment 100 of drawing 1 (A) and (B) Since spacing between said shower plates 103 and processed substrates 114 is narrow, Although very uniform plasma treatment becomes possible even if the continuous and stable plasma style to the direction of a path of the shower plate 103 is formed in said space 101B and 101C and said processed substrate 114 is a diameter substrate of macrostomia On the other hand, when the pressure in said processing container 101 declines, the problem to which a plasma consistency tends to fall especially in the periphery of the shower plate 103 arises. For example, when the pressure in the processing container 101 falls to 300 or less mTorrs in Ar ambient atmosphere, in the periphery of the shower plate 103, a plasma consistency falls greatly. Diffusion of the dissociated electron is promoted and this is considered to originate in disappearing by the internal surface of the processing container 101, when the pressure in the processing container 101 declines. When it falls below to the cut-off consistency which requires a plasma consistency, it becomes impossible to maintain the plasma, since the cut-off consistency of the plasma is 7.5x1010cm-3. Microwave will be directly impressed to the processed substrate 114, and the fall of the plasma consistency in this shower plate 103 periphery not only causes the fall of processing speed, but produces the problem which carries out induction of the damage.

[0016] Then, this invention makes it a general technical problem to offer the new and useful plasma treatment equipment which solved the conventional technical problem.

[0017] The more concrete technical problem of this invention is to offer the plasma treatment equipment in which uniform processing is possible over the whole processed substrate front face also in low processing pressure.

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#### **MEANS**

[Means for Solving the Problem] The processing container equipped with the maintenance base which this invention is formed with an outer wall as the above-mentioned technical problem was indicated to claim 1, and holds a processed substrate, So that the processed substrate on said maintenance base may be met on said processing container with the exhaust air system combined with said processing container The microwave transparency aperture prepared as said some of outer walls, and the plasma gas feed zone which supplies plasma gas into said processing container, It consists of a microwave antenna formed on said processing container corresponding to said microwave. Said microwave transparency aperture With the plasma treatment equipment with which the inside of the side which meets said processed substrate is characterized by having the concave surface configuration in which spacing between the flat surfaces which are in agreement with said processed substrate front face decreases toward the direction outside of a path of said microwave transparency aperture As indicated to claim 2, or said spacing As indicated to the plasma treatment equipment according to claim 1 characterized by decreasing continuously toward the direction outside of a path of said microwave transparency aperture, or claim 3, said spacing As indicated to the plasma treatment equipment according to claim 2 characterized by decreasing smoothly toward the direction outside of a path of said microwave transparency aperture, or claim 4, said spacing As indicated to the plasma treatment equipment according to claim 2 or 3 characterized by decreasing linearly toward the direction outside of a path of said microwave transparency aperture, or claim 5, said spacing With the plasma treatment equipment according to claim 2 or 3 characterized by decreasing in nonlinear toward the direction outside of a path of said microwave transparency aperture As indicated to claim 6, or said spacing As indicated to the plasma treatment equipment according to claim 1 characterized by decreasing stair-like toward the direction outside of a path of said microwave transparency aperture, or claim 7, said spacing With the plasma treatment equipment according to claim 1 characterized by decreasing toward the direction outside of a path of said microwave transparency aperture only in the periphery of said microwave transparency aperture As indicated to claim 8, or said microwave transparency aperture With plasma treatment equipment given in any 1 term among claims 1-7 characterized by the external surface which counters said inside consisting of a flat side As indicated to claim 9, or said microwave transparency aperture With plasma treatment equipment given in any 1 term among claims 1-8 characterized by constituting said plasma gas feed zone which has a plasma gas path inside and emits plasma gas into said processing container As indicated to claim 10, or said microwave transparency aperture As indicated to the plasma treatment equipment according to claim 9 characterized by having two or more openings which are open for free passage to said plasma gas path, or claim 11, a microwave transparency aperture It is close to the cover plate which constitutes some outer walls of said processing container, and said cover plate, and is prepared. With the plasma treatment equipment according to claim 9 characterized by consisting of a shower plate which has two or more openings which are open for free passage to said plasma gas path and this As indicated to claim 12, with or the plasma treatment equipment according to claim 8 or 11 characterized by said microwave transparency aperture consisting of a precise ceramic As indicated to claim 13, or said microwave transparency aperture As indicated to the

plasma treatment equipment according to claim 9 characterized by consisting of porous media, or claim 14, said microwave transparency aperture With the plasma treatment equipment according to claim 9 characterized by consisting of a cover plate which constitutes said some of processing containers, and a shower plate which consists of porous media formed by being close to said cover plate As indicated to claim 15, or said porous media As indicated to the plasma treatment equipment according to claim 13 or 14 characterized by consisting of a sintering ceramic, or claim 16, said plasma gas feed zone With plasma treatment equipment given in any 1 term among claims 1-8 characterized by consisting of tubing connectable with the source of plasma gas formed in said processing container outer wall As indicated to claim 17, or said microwave transparency aperture With the plasma treatment equipment according to claim 16 characterized by consisting of a precise ceramic As indicated to claim 18, further or between said processed substrates and said sources of plasma gas As indicated to plasma treatment equipment given in any 1 term, or claim 19 among claims 1-17 characterized by preparing a raw gas feed zone, said raw gas feed zone With the plasma treatment equipment according to claim 18 characterized by having the plasma path which passes the plasma, a raw gas path connectable with the source of raw gas, and nozzle opening of a large number which were open for free passage to said raw gas path With or plasma treatment equipment given in any 1 term among claims 1-19 characterized by including the RF generator further connected to said maintenance base as indicated to claim 20 Or as indicated to claim 21, said microwave antenna is solved with plasma treatment equipment given in any 1 term among claims 1-20 characterized by consisting of a radial line slot antenna.

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#### **OPERATION**

According to [operation] this invention, by forming a concave surface in the side which meets the processed substrate of said shower plate, spacing between the shower plate inferior surfaces of tongue and processed substrate front faces in which the high density plasma is formed in a processed substrate periphery decreases, and the fall of the plasma consistency in a shower plate periphery is compensated. Consequently, also when low-pressure plasma treatment, such as etching, is performed, the stable and uniform plasma is maintained [ near the processed substrate front face ]. Moreover, ignition of the plasma is also promoted by this configuration. Stabilization of the plasma by this concave surface formation is applicable also to the configuration which omitted not only a configuration but the raw gas feed zone which prepared the raw gas feed zone between a processed substrate and a plasma gas feed zone. [0019] Although it is possible to use the precise ceramic member which had opening of a large number which were open for free passage to a plasma gas path and this formed as a shower plate which has this concave surface, it is also possible to use a porosity ceramic member instead of said precise ceramic member. Although these shower plates are close to the precise cover plate which constitutes a nothing plasma transparency aperture and some processing container outer walls are established, it is also possible to form said crevice in the microwave transparency aperture itself further in this invention, and to introduce plasma gas all over said processing room with tubing etc. separately, without using a shower plate. [0020] Since cooling of the shower plate which adhesion with a microwave antenna could secure easily that the external surface which counters the inside which makes said concave surface by

the shower plate or microwave transparency aperture by this invention was a flat side, and minded the antenna is attained, it is advantageous.

[0021]

[Embodiment of the Invention]

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#### **EXAMPLE**

[1st example] drawing 2 (A) and (B) show the configuration of the microwave plasma treatment equipment 10 by the 1st example of this invention.

[0022] With reference to drawing 2 (A), said microwave plasma treatment equipment 10 The processing container 11, It is prepared in said processing container 11, and the maintenance base 13 which consists of AIN or aluminum 203 which holds the processed substrate 12 by the electrostatic chuck, and which was preferably formed of the isotropic pressure inflatable flexible bag technique (HIP) between heat is included. In said processing container 11, at least two exhaust air port 11a is preferably formed by \*\*\*\* symmetric relation at three or more places at space 11A surrounding said maintenance base 13 to the processed substrate 12 on regular intervals 13, i.e., said maintenance base. Said processing container 11 minds this exhaust air port 11a, and is exhausted and decompressed by an irregular—pitch inequality inclination screw pump etc.

[0023] Said processing container 11 consists of an austenitic stainless steel which contains aluminum preferably, and the protective coat which consists of an aluminum oxide by oxidation treatment is formed in the internal surface. Moreover, the shower plate 14 of the shape of a disk which it consisted [ shape ] of precise aluminum 203 formed by the HIP method, and had much nozzle opening 14A formed is formed in the part corresponding to said processed substrate 12 as said some of outer walls among the outer walls of said processing container 11. 14 is formed using the aluminum203 shower plateY203 formed by this HIP method as sintering acid, and has the very big thermal conductivity as a ceramic to which porosity reaches 30 W/m-K excluding pore or a pinhole substantially at 0.03% or less.

[0024] It is equipped with said shower plate 14 through seal ring 11s on said processing container 11, and the cover plate 15 which consists of precise aluminum 203 further formed of the same HIP processing on said shower plate 14 is formed through seal ring 11t. Crevice 14B which is open for free passage at each of said nozzle opening 14A to the side which touches said cover plate 15 of said shower plate 14, and becomes plasma gas passage is formed, and said crevice 14B is open for free passage to another plasma gas passage 14C which is open for free passage to plasma gas inlet-port 11p which was formed in the interior of said shower plate 14, and was formed in the outer wall of said processing container 11.

[0025] In order that said shower plate 14 may control abnormality discharge into the part which was formed in the wall of said processing container 11 and which \*, is held by section 11b and holds said shower plate 14 among said overhang section 11b, the radius of circle is formed. [0026] Then, after the plasma gas supplied to said plasma gas inlet—port 11p, such as Ar and Kr, carries out sequential passage of the passage 14C and 14B of said shower plate 14 interior, it is uniformly supplied into space 11B of said shower plate 14 directly under through said opening 14A.

[0027] The slot plate 16 of the shape of a disk which had many slots 16a and 16b which are close to said cover plate 15, and are shown in <u>drawing 3</u> (B) formed on said cover plate 15, The body 17 of an antenna of the shape of a disk holding said slot plate 16, The radial line slot antenna 20 constituted with the late phase plate 18 which consists of low loss dielectric materials of aluminum [ which was pinched between said slot plates 16 and said bodies 17 of an

antenna ] 203, Si3N4, SiON, or SiO2 grade is formed. It is equipped with said radial slot line antenna 20 through seal ring 11u on said processing container 11, and the microwave whose frequency is 2.45GHz or 8.3GHz is supplied to said radial line slot antenna 20 from the external source of microwave (not shown) through the coaxial waveguide 21 which has a rectangle or a circular cross section. The supplied microwave is emitted into said processing container 11 through said cover plate 15 and the shower plate 14 from the slots 16a and 16b on said slot plate 16, and excites the plasma in space 11B of said shower plate 14 directly under in the plasma gas supplied from said opening 14A from it. In that case, said cover plate 15 and the shower plate 14 are formed of aluminum 203, and act as an efficient microwave transparency aperture. In order to avoid that the plasma is excited in said plasma gas passage 14A–14C in that case, said plasma gas is held in said passage 14A–14C at the pressure of about 6666Pa – 13332Pa (about 50 to 100 Torr).

[0028] In order to raise the adhesion of said radial line slot antenna 20 and said cover plate 15, 11g of ring-like slots is formed in a part of top face of said processing container 11 which engages with said slot plate 16 with the microwave plasma treatment equipment 10 of this example. By exhausting 11g of these slots through exhaust air port 11G which were open for free passage to this The clearance formed between said slot plates 16 and cover plates 15 is decompressed, and an atmospheric pressure enables it to push said radial line slot antenna 20 against said cover plate 15 firmly. Although the slots 16a and 16b formed in said slot plate 16 are included, a clearance may be formed in this clearance of various reasons of irregularity with cover-plate 15 detailed front face etc. besides it. The closure of this clearance is carried out by seal ring 11u between said radial line slot antennas 20 and processing containers 11. [0029] By furthermore filling up the clearance between said slot plates 16 and said cover plates 15 with inert gas with small molecular weight through said exhaust air port 11G and 15g of slots, transportation of the heat from said cover plate 15 to said slot plate 16 can be promoted. As this inert gas, it is desirable that thermal conductivity, large moreover, uses high helium of ionization energy. When filling up said clearance with helium, it is desirable to set it as the pressure of 0.8 atmospheric-pressure extent. With the configuration of drawing 3, bulb 11V are connected to said exhaust air port 11G for exhaust air of 15g of said slots, and restoration of 15g [ of slots ] inert gas.

[0030] Outside waveguide 21A is connected to the body 17 of an antenna of the shape of said disk among said coaxial waveguide 21A, and central conductor 21B is connected to said slot plate 16 through opening formed in said slow wave plate 18. Then, the microwave supplied to said coaxial waveguide 21A is emitted from said slots 16a and 16b, going on between said bodies 17 of an antenna and slot plates 16 in the direction of a path.

[0031] Drawing 2 (B) shows the slots 16a and 16b formed on said slot plate 16.

[0032] With reference to drawing 2 (B), said slot 16a is arranged by concentric circular, and, similarly slot 16b which goes to this direct is formed in concentric circular corresponding to each slot 16a. Said slots 16a and 16b are formed at spacing corresponding to the wavelength of the microwave compressed into radial [ of said slot plate 16 ] with said late phase plate 18, and as a result, microwave turns into an approximate plane wave from said slot plate 16, and is emitted. Since said slots 16a and 16b are formed by the relation relation and mutual cross at right angles in that case, the microwave emitted by doing in this way forms the circularly-polarized wave containing two polarization components which intersect perpendicularly.

[0033] With the plasma treatment equipment 10 of this example, the front face of the side which meets said processed substrate 12 of said shower plate 14 forms the curve side of a concave surface configuration, and the spacing D between the flat surfaces which are in agreement with the front face of said shower plate 14 and processed substrate 12 as a result decreases smoothly toward the method of the outside of the improvement in the method of a radius of said shower plate 14. That is, said concave surface configuration is formed by the curved surface symmetrical with a shaft, and in order that said spacing D may decrease in the periphery of said processed substrate 12, the problem of a fall of the plasma consistency in this processed substrate periphery is solved.

[0034] Thereby, with said plasma treatment equipment 10, even if it performs plasma treatment

with the need of carrying out by hypobaric environment—ization, such as dry etching, a plasma consistency does not fall below to a cut—off consistency, and the plasma is maintained by stability and can avoid problems, such as disappearance of the plasma in processed substrate 12 periphery, damage on the substrate by microwave, or a fall of processing speed.

[0035] Furthermore with the plasma treatment equipment 10 of drawing 2 (A), the cooling block 19 which had cooling water path 19A formed is formed on said body 17 of an antenna, and the heat accumulated in said shower plate 14 is absorbed through said radial line slot antenna 20 by cooling said cooling block 19 with the cooling water in said cooling water path 19A. It lets the cooling water which said cooling water path 19A is formed in the shape of a spiral on said cooling block 19, and eliminated dissolved oxygen by carrying out bubbling of the H2 gas preferably, and controlled the oxidation reduction potential pass.

[0036] moreover, with the microwave plasma treatment equipment 10 of drawing 2 (A) Among said processing container 11 between said shower plates 14 and processed substrates 12 on said maintenance base 13 The raw gas supply structure 31 of having raw gas path 31A of the shape of a grid which raw gas is supplied from raw gas inlet 11r prepared in the outer wall of said processing container 11, and emits this from much raw gas nozzle orifice section 31B (refer to drawing 3) is established. Desired uniform substrate processing is made in space 11C between said raw gas supply structures 31 and said processed substrates 12. Plasma oxidation processing, plasma nitriding treatment, plasma acid nitriding treatment, plasma—CVD processing, etc. are included in this substrate processing. Moreover, it is possible to perform reactive ion etching to said processed substrate 12 by supplying etching gas, such as fluorocarbon gas which is [6 / C4F8, C5F8, / C4F] easy to dissociate, and F system or Cl system, from said raw gas supply structure 31 to said space 11C, and impressing high—frequency voltage to said maintenance base 13 from RF generator 13A.

[0037] with the microwave plasma treatment equipment 10 by this example, adhesion of a reaction by-product etc. in a processing container wall avoids the outer wall of said processing container 11 by heating to 150-degree about C temperature — having — a day — about 1 time of dry-cleaning \*\*\*\* — it is things and stabilizing and operating is possible regularly.

[0038] <u>Drawing 4</u> is the bottom view showing the configuration of the raw gas supply structure 31 in the configuration of drawing 2 (A).

[0039] With reference to drawing 4, it consists of conductors containing Mg, such as aluminum alloy and aluminum addition stainless steel, and said grid—like raw gas path 31A is connected to said raw gas inlet 11r in raw gas supply—port 31R, and said raw gas supply structure 31 emits raw gas to homogeneity at said space 11C from raw gas nozzle orifice section 31B of a large number by which inferior—surface—of—tongue formation was carried out. Moreover, opening 31C which passes the raw gas contained in the plasma or the plasma is formed between raw gas path 31A which adjoins said raw gas supply structure 31. When forming said raw gas supply structure 31 with a Mg content aluminum alloy, it is desirable to form the fluoride film in a front face. Moreover, when forming said raw gas supply structure 31 by aluminum addition stainless steel, it is desirable to form the passive state film of an aluminum oxide in a front face. With the plasma treatment equipment 10 by this invention, since the electron temperature in the plasma which is excited and which is excited is low, the incidence energy of the plasma is small, and the problem which sputtering of this raw gas supply structure 31 is carried out, and metal contamination produces in the processed substrate 12 is avoided. Said raw gas supply structure 31 can also be formed with ceramics, such as an alumina.

[0040] Said grid-like raw gas path 31A and raw gas nozzle orifice section 31B are prepared so that a little larger field than the processed substrate 12 shown in <u>drawing 4</u> with the broken line may be covered. By establishing this raw gas supply structure 31 between said shower plates 14 and processed substrates 12, plasma excitation of the raw gas, such as material gas and etching gas, is carried out, and this raw gas by which plasma excitation was carried out enables it to process to homogeneity.

[0041] In forming said raw gas supply structure 31 with conductors, such as a metal, said raw gas supply structure 31 forms the short circuit side of microwave by setting up shorter than the wavelength of said microwave said spacing between grid-like raw gas path 31A. In this case, the

microwave excitation of the plasma is produced in said space 11B, and raw gas is activated by the plasma diffused from said excitation space 11B in space 11C including the front face of said processed substrate 12.

[0042] Since supply of raw gas is uniformly controlled by the microwave plasma treatment equipment 10 by this example by using the raw gas supply structure 31, even when the problem of superfluous dissociation in processed substrate 12 front face of raw gas can be solved and the large structure of an aspect ratio is formed in the front face of the processed substrate 12, it is possible to carry out desired substrate processing even in the inner part of this high aspect structure. That is, microwave plasma treatment equipment 10 is effective in manufacture of many generations' semiconductor device with which the design Ruhr differs.

[0043] In plasma treatment equipment 10B of <u>drawing 5</u>, it is possible by introducing various oxidization gas and nitriding gas, material gas, and etching gas from said raw gas supply structure 13 to be low temperature, to deposit various high quality film on homogeneity all over the front face of said processed substrate 12, even if said processed substrate 12 is a diameter substrate of macrostomia, or to etch said front face into homogeneity.

[0044] <u>Drawing 4</u> shows the configuration of the shower plates 141-144 by various modifications of said shower plate 14.

[0045] With reference to drawing 4, said shower plate 142 is understood that said shower plate 141 has the concave surface of a truncated-cone configuration to having the concave surface of a cone configuration in the side which meets said processed substrate 12. Furthermore on said shower plate 143, the circular crevice forms the level difference configuration, and two or more level difference configuration crevices are formed on said shower plate 144. These crevices are formed in axial symmetry by each to the medial axis of said shower plate, and uniform processing is guaranteed around said medial axis.

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#### **DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS**

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] (A) and (B) are drawings showing the configuration of the microwave plasma treatment equipment using the conventional radial line slot antenna.

[Drawing 2] (A) and (B) are drawings showing the configuration of the plasma treatment equipment by the 1st example of this invention.

[Drawing 3] It is the bottom view showing the configuration of the raw gas supply structure used with the plasma treatment equipment of <u>drawing 2</u> (A) and (B).

[Drawing 4] It is drawing showing various modifications of the plasma treatment equipment of drawing 2 (A) and (B).

[Drawing 5] It is drawing showing the configuration of the plasma treatment equipment by the 2nd example of this invention.

[Drawing 6] It is drawing showing the configuration of the plasma treatment equipment by the 3rd example of this invention.

[Drawing 7] It is drawing showing the configuration of the plasma treatment equipment by the 4th example of this invention.

[Drawing 8] It is drawing showing the configuration of the plasma treatment equipment by the 5th example of this invention.

[Drawing 9] It is drawing showing the configuration of the plasma treatment equipment by the 6th example of this invention.

[Drawing 10] It is drawing showing the configuration of the plasma treatment equipment by the 7th example of this invention.

[Drawing 11] It is drawing showing the configuration of the plasma treatment equipment by the 8th example of this invention.

[Description of Notations]

10 and 10A- 10G and 100 Plasma treatment equipment

11 Processing Container

11a Exhaust air port

11b Overhang section

11p Plasma gas supply port

11r Raw gas supply port

11A, 11B, 11C Space

11G Reduced pressure and helium supply port

11P Plasma gas inlet

12 Processed Substrate

13 Maintenance Base

13A RF generator

14 Shower Plate

14P Porosity shower plate

14A Plasma gas-nozzle opening

14B, 14C Plasma gas path

14Q, 14Q' Microwave transparency aperture

15 Cover Plate 16 16' Slot plate 16a, 16b Slot opening 17 17' Body of an antenna 18 18' Slow wave plate 18A, 18B Ring-like member 19 Cooling Block 19A Cooling water path 20 20' Radial line antenna 21 Coaxial Waveguide 21A Outside waveguide 21B Inside feeder 31 Raw Gas Supply Structure

31A Raw gas path

31B Processing gas nozzle

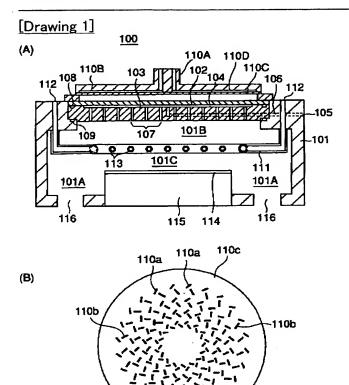
31C Plasma diffusion path

31R Raw gas supply port

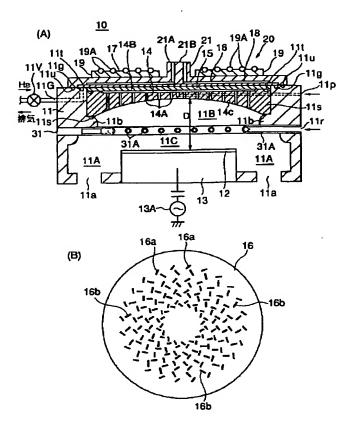
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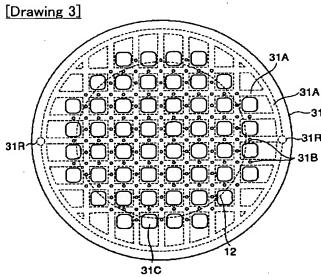
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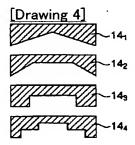
#### **DRAWINGS**



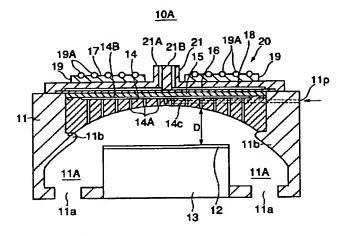
# [Drawing 2]





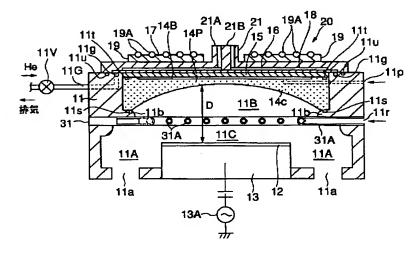


[Drawing 5]



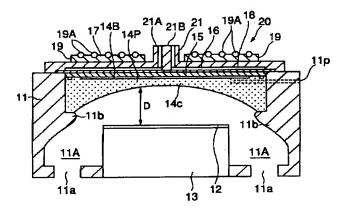
# [Drawing 6]

<u>10B</u>



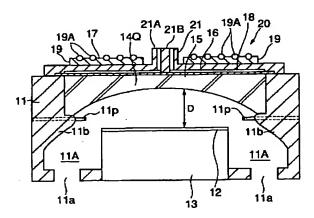
[Drawing 7]

10C



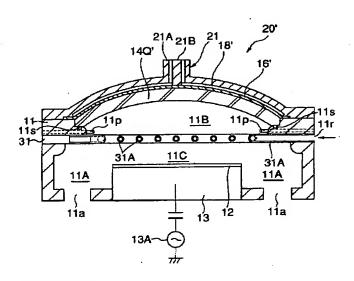
[Drawing 9]

<u>10E</u>



[Drawing 10]

10F

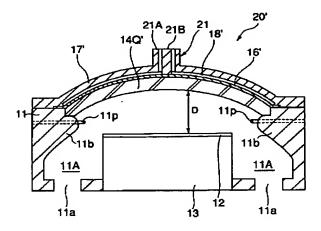


# [Drawing 8]

<u>10D</u>

# [Drawing 11]

<u>10G</u>



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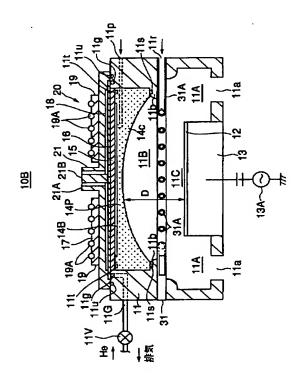
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# (54) 【発明の名称】 プラズマ処理装置

# (57)【要約】

【課題】 マイクロ波プラズマ処理装置において、被処 理基板周辺部でのプラズマ密度の低下を補償する。

【解決手段】 被処理基板に対面するシャワープレート あるいはプラズマ透過窓の、前記被処理基板に対面する 側を凹面形状とする。



2

#### 【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 外壁により画成され、被処理基板を保持 する保持台を備えた処理容器と、

1

前記処理容器に結合された排気系と、

前記処理容器上に、前記保持台上の被処理基板に対面す るように、前記外壁の一部として設けられたマイクロ波 透過窓と、

前記処理容器中にプラズマガスを供給するプラズマガス 供給部と、

前記処理容器上に、前記マイクロ波に対応して設けられ 10 たマイクロ波アンテナとよりなり、

前記マイクロ波透過窓は、前記被処理基板と対面する側 の内面が、前記被処理基板表面に一致する平面との間の 間隔が、前記マイクロ波透過窓の径方向外側に向って減 少する凹面形状を有することを特徴とするプラズマ処理

【請求項2】 前記間隔は、前記マイクロ波透過窓の径 方向外側に向って連続的に減少することを特徴とする請 求項1記載のプラズマ処理装置。

【請求項3】 前記間隔は、前記マイクロ波透過窓の径 20 方向外側に向って滑らかに減少することを特徴とする請 求項2記載のプラズマ処理装置。

【請求項4】 前記間隔は、前記マイクロ波透過窓の径 方向外側に向って直線的に減少することを特徴とする請 求項2または3記載のプラズマ処理装置。

【請求項5】 前記間隔は、前記マイクロ波透過窓の径 方向外側に向って非直線的に減少することを特徴とする 請求項2または3記載のプラズマ処理装置。

【請求項6】 前記間隔は、前記マイクロ波透過窓の径 方向外側に向って階段状に減少することを特徴とする請 求項1記載のプラズマ処理装置。

【請求項7】 前記間隔は、前記マイクロ波透過窓の周 辺部においてのみ、前記マイクロ波透過窓の径方向外側 に向って減少することを特徴とする請求項1記載のプラ ズマ処理装置。

【請求項8】 前記マイクロ波透過窓は、前記内面に対 向する外面が、平坦面よりなることを特徴とする請求項 1~7のうち、いずれか一項記載のプラズマ処理装置。

【請求項9】 前記マイクロ波透過窓は、内部にプラズ マガス通路を有し、前記処理容器中にプラズマガスを放 40 出する前記プラズマガス供給部を構成することを特徴と する請求項1~8のうち、いずれか一項記載のプラズマ 処理装置。

【請求項10】 前記マイクロ波透過窓は、前記プラズ マガス通路に連通する複数の開口部を有することを特徴 とする請求項9記載のプラズマ処理装置。

【請求項11】 マイクロ波透過窓は、前記処理容器の 外壁の一部を構成するカバープレートと、前記カバープ レートに密接して設けられ、前記プラズマガス通路とこ れに連通する複数の開口部とを有するシャワープレート 50

よりなることを特徴とする請求項10記載のプラズマ処 理装置。

【請求項12】 前記マイクロ波透過窓は緻密なセラミ ックよりなることを特徴とする請求項10または11記 載のプラズマ処理装置。

【請求項13】 前記マイクロ波透過窓は、多孔質媒体 より構成されることを特徴とする請求項9記載のプラズ マ処理装置。

【請求項14】 前記マイクロ波透過窓は、前記処理容 器の一部を構成するカバープレートと、前記カバープレ ートに密接して設けられた多孔質媒体よりなるシャワー プレートとよりなることを特徴とする請求項9記載のプ ラズマ処理装置。

【請求項15】 前記多孔質媒体は、焼結セラミックよ りなることを特徴とする請求項13または14記載のプ ラズマ処理装置。

【請求項16】 前記プラズマガス供給部は、前記処理 容器外壁に形成された、プラズマガス源に接続可能な管 よりなることを特徴とする請求項1~8のうち、いずれ か一項記載のプラズマ処理装置。

【請求項17】 前記マイクロ波透過窓は、緻密なセラ ミックよりなることを特徴とする請求項16記載のプラ ズマ処理装置。

【請求項18】 さらに、前記被処理基板と前記プラズ マガス源との間に、処理ガス供給部を設けたことを特徴 とする請求項1~17のうち、いずれか一項記載のプラ ズマ処理装置。

【請求項19】 前記処理ガス供給部は、プラズマを通 過させるプラズマ通路と、処理ガス源に接続可能な処理 ガス通路と、前記処理ガス通路に連通した多数のノズル 開口部とを有することを特徴とする請求項18記載のプ ラズマ処理装置。

【請求項20】 さらに前記保持台に接続された高周波 電源を含むことを特徴とする請求項1~19のうち、い ずれか一項記載のプラズマ処理装置。

【請求項21】 前記マイクロ波アンテナはラジアルラ インスロットアンテナよりなることを特徴とする請求項 1~20のうち、いずれか一項記載のプラズマ処理装

### 【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は一般にプラズマ処理 装置に係わり、特にマイクロ波プラズマ処理装置に関す

【0002】プラズマ処理工程およびプラズマ処理装置 は、近年のいわゆるディープサブミクロン素子あるいは ディープサブクォーターミクロン素子と呼ばれる0.1 μmに近い、あるいはそれ以下のゲート長を有する超微 細化半導体装置の製造や、液晶表示装置を含む高解像度 平面表示装置の製造にとって、不可欠の技術である。

【0003】半導体装置や液晶表示装置の製造に使われ るプラズマ処理装置としては、従来より様々なプラズマ の励起方式が使われているが、特に平行平板型高周波励 起プラズマ処理装置あるいは誘導結合型プラズマ処理装 置が一般的である。しかしこれら従来のプラズマ処理装 置は、プラズマ形成が不均一であり、電子密度の高い領 域が限定されているため大きな処理速度すなわちスルー プットで被処理基板全面にわたり均一なプロセスを行う のが困難である問題点を有している。この問題は、特に 大径の基板を処理する場合に深刻になる。しかもこれら 従来のプラズマ処理装置では、電子温度が高いため被処 理基板上に形成される半導体素子にダメージが生じ、ま た処理室壁のスパッタリングによる金属汚染が大きいな ど、いくつかの本質的な問題を有している。このため、 従来のプラズマ処理装置では、半導体装置や液晶表示装 置のさらなる微細化およびさらなる生産性の向上に対す る厳しい要求を満たすことが困難になりつつある。

【0004】一方、従来より直流磁場を用いずにマイク ロ波電界により励起された高密度プラズマを使うマイク 口波プラズマ処理装置が提案されている。例えば、均一 なマイクロ波を発生するように配列された多数のスロッ トを有する平面状のアンテナ(ラジアルラインスロット アンテナ)から処理容器内にマイクロ波を放射し、この マイクロ波電界により真空容器内のガスを電離してプラ ズマを励起させる構成のプラズマ処理装置が提案されて いる。例えば特開平9-63793公報を参照。このよ うな手法で励起されたマイクロ波プラズマではアンテナ 直下の広い領域にわたって高いプラズマ密度を実現で き、短時間で均一なプラズマ処理を行うことが可能であ る。しかもかかる手法で形成されたマイクロ波プラズマ ではマイクロ波によりプラズマを励起するため電子温度 が低く、被処理基板のダメージや金属汚染を回避するこ とができる。さらに大面積基板上にも均一なプラズマを 容易に励起できるため、大口径半導体基板を使った半導 体装置の製造工程や大型液晶表示装置の製造にも容易に 対応できる。

# [0005]

【従来の技術】図1(A), (B)は、かかるラジアル ラインスロットアンテナを使った従来のマイクロ波プラ ズマ処理装置100の構成を示す。ただし図1(A)は 40 マイクロ波プラズマ処理装置100の断面図を、また図 1 (B) はラジアルラインスロットアンテナの構成を示 す図である。

【0006】図1(A)を参照するに、マイクロ波プラ ズマ処理装置100は複数の排気ポート116から排気 される処理室101を有し、前記処理室101中には被 処理基板114を保持する保持台115が形成されてい る。前記処理室101の均一な排気を実現するため、前 記保持台115の周囲にはリング状に空間101Aが形 成されており、前記複数の排気ポート116を前記空間 50 行するが、その際に前記遅相板110Dの作用により波

101Aに連通するように等間隔で、すなわち被処理基 板に対して軸対称に形成することにより、前記処理室 1 01を前記空間101Aおよび排気ポート116を介し て均一に排気することができる。

【0007】前記処理室101上には、前記保持台11 5上の被処理基板114に対応する位置に、前記処理室 101の外壁の一部として、低損失誘電体よりなり多数 の開口部107を形成された板状のシャワープレート1 03がシールリング109を介して形成されており、さ らに前記シャワープレート103の外側に同じく低損失 誘電体よりなるカバープレート102が、別のシールリ ング108を介して設けられている。

【0008】前記シャワープレート103にはその上面 にプラズマガスの通路104が形成されており、前記複 数の開口部107の各々は前記プラズマガス通路104 に連通するように形成されている。さらに、前記シャワ ープレート103の内部には、前記処理容器101の外 壁に設けられたプラズマガス供給ポート105に連通す るプラズマガスの供給通路108が形成されており、前 記プラズマガス供給ポート105に供給されたArやK r等のプラズマガスは、前記供給通路108から前記通 路104を介して前記開口部107に供給され、前記開 口部107から前記処理容器101内部の前記シャワー プレート103直下の空間101Bに、実質的に一様な 濃度で放出される。

【0009】前記処理容器101上には、さらに前記力 バープレート102の外側に、前記カバープレート10 2から4~5mm離間して、図1(B)に示す放射面を 有するラジアルラインスロットアンテナ110が設けら れている。前記ラジアルラインスロットアンテナ110 は外部のマイクロ波源 (図示せず) に同軸導波管110 Aを介して接続されており、前記マイクロ波源からのマ イクロ波により、前記空間101Bに放出されたプラズ マガスを励起する。前記カバープレート102とラジア ルラインスロットアンテナ110の放射面との間の隙間 は大気により充填されている。

【0010】前記ラジアルラインスロットアンテナ11 0は、前記同軸導波管110Aの外側導波管に接続され た平坦なディスク状のアンテナ本体110Bと、前記ア ンテナ本体110Bの開口部に形成された、図1(B) に示す多数のスロット110 a およびこれに直交する多 数のスロット110bを形成された放射板110Cとよ りなり、前記アンテナ本体110Bと前記放射板110 Cとの間には、厚さが一定の誘電体板よりなる遅相板1 10Dが挿入されている。

【0011】かかる構成のラジアルラインスロットアン テナ110では、前記同軸導波管110から給電された マイクロ波は、前記ディスク状のアンテナ本体110B と放射板1100との間を、半径方向に広がりながら進 長が圧縮される。そこで、このようにして半径方向に進行するマイクロ波の波長に対応して前記スロット110 a および110 b を同心円状に、かつ相互に直交するように形成しておくことにより、円偏波を有する平面波を前記放射板110Cに実質的に垂直な方向に放射することができる。

【0012】かかるラジアルラインスロットアンテナ110を使うことにより、前記シャワープレート103直下の空間101Bに均一な高密度プラズマが形成される。このようにして形成された高密度プラズマは電子温 10度が低く、そのため被処理基板114にダメージが生じることがなく、また処理容器101の器壁のスパッタリングに起因する金属汚染が生じることもない。

【0013】図1のプラズマ処理装置100では、さらに前記処理容器101中、前記シャワープレート103と被処理基板114との間に、外部の処理ガス源(図示せず)から前記処理容器101中に形成された処理ガス通路112を介して処理ガスを供給する多数のノズル113を形成された導体構造物111が形成されており、前記ノズル113の各々は、供給された処理ガスを、前記導体構造物111と被処理基板114との間の空間101Cに放出する。前記導体構造物111には、前記隣接するノズル113と113との間に、前記空間101Bから前記空間101Cに拡散により、効率よく通過させるような大きさの開口部が形成されている。

【0014】そこで、このように前記導体構造物111から前記ノズル113を介して処理ガスを前記空間101Cに放出した場合、放出された処理ガスは前記空間101Bにおいて形成された高密度プラズマにより励起され、前記被処理基板114上に、一様なプラズマ処理が、効率的かつ高速に、しかも基板および基板上の素子構造を損傷させることなく、また基板を汚染することなく行われる。一方前記ラジアルラインスロットアンテナ110から放射されたマイクロ波は、かかる導体構造物111により阻止され、被処理基板114を損傷させることはない。

### [0015]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】ところで図1(A), (B)の従来のプラズマ処理装置100では、前記シャ 40ワープレート103と被処理基板114との間の間隔が狭いため、前記空間101Bおよび101Cにはシャワープレート103の径方向への連続的で安定なプラズマ流が形成され、前記被処理基板114が大口径基板であっても非常に均一なプラズマ処理が可能になるが、一方で前記処理容器101内の圧力が低下した場合、特にシャワープレート103の周辺部においてプラズマ密度が低下しやすい問題が生じる。例えば処理容器101内の圧力がAr雰囲気中で300mTorr以下に低下した場合、シャワープレート103の周辺部においてプラズ 50

マ密度が大きく低下する。これは処理容器101内の圧力が低下した場合、解離した電子の拡散が促進され、処理容器101の内壁面で消滅することに起因するものと考えられる。プラズマのカットオフ密度は7. 5×10°cm³であるため、プラズマ密度がかかるカットオフ密度以下に低下するとプラズマを維持することができなくなる。かかるシャワープレート103周辺部におけるプラズマ密度の低下は、処理速度の低下を招くだけでなく、マイクロ波が被処理基板114に直接に印加されてしまい、損傷を誘起してしまう問題を生じる。

【0016】そこで、本発明は従来の課題を解決した新規で有用なプラズマ処理装置を提供することを概括的課題とする。

【0017】本発明のより具体的な課題は、低い処理圧においても被処理基板表面全体にわたり均一な処理が可能なプラズマ処理装置を提供することにある。

#### [0018]

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明は上記の課題を、 請求項1に記載したように、外壁により画成され、被処 理基板を保持する保持台を備えた処理容器と、前記処理 容器に結合された排気系と、前記処理容器上に、前記保 持台上の被処理基板に対面するように、前記外壁の一部 として設けられたマイクロ波透過窓と、前記処理容器中 にプラズマガスを供給するプラズマガス供給部と、前記 処理容器上に、前記マイクロ波に対応して設けられたマ イクロ波アンテナとよりなり、前記マイクロ波透過窓 は、前記被処理基板と対面する側の内面が、前記被処理 基板表面に一致する平面との間の間隔が、前記マイクロ 波透過窓の径方向外側に向って減少する凹面形状を有す ることを特徴とするプラズマ処理装置により、または請 求項2に記載したように、前記間隔は、前記マイクロ波 透過窓の径方向外側に向って連続的に減少することを特 徴とする請求項1記載のプラズマ処理装置により、また は請求項3に記載したように、前記間隔は、前記マイク 口波透過窓の径方向外側に向って滑らかに減少すること を特徴とする請求項2記載のプラズマ処理装置により、 または請求項4に記載したように、前記間隔は、前記マ イクロ波透過窓の径方向外側に向って直線的に減少する ことを特徴とする請求項2または3記載のプラズマ処理 装置により、または請求項5に記載したように、前記間 隔は、前記マイクロ波透過窓の径方向外側に向って非直 線的に減少することを特徴とする請求項2または3記載 のプラズマ処理装置により、または請求項6に記載した ように、前記間隔は、前記マイクロ波透過窓の径方向外 側に向って階段状に減少することを特徴とする請求項1 記載のプラズマ処理装置により、または請求項7に記載 したように、前記間隔は、前記マイクロ波透過窓の周辺 部においてのみ、前記マイクロ波透過窓の径方向外側に 向って減少することを特徴とする請求項1記載のプラズ マ処理装置により、または請求項8に記載したように、

前記マイクロ波透過窓は、前記内面に対向する外面が平 坦面よりなることを特徴とする請求項1~7のうち、い ずれか一項記載のプラズマ処理装置により、または請求 項9に記載したように、前記マイクロ波透過窓は、内部 にプラズマガス通路を有し、前記処理容器中にプラズマ ガスを放出する前記プラズマガス供給部を構成すること を特徴とする請求項1~8のうち、いずれか一項記載の プラズマ処理装置により、または請求項10に記載した ように、前記マイクロ波透過窓は、前記プラズマガス通 路に連通する複数の開口部を有することを特徴とする請 求項9記載のプラズマ処理装置により、または請求項1 1に記載したように、マイクロ波透過窓は、前記処理容 器の外壁の一部を構成するカバープレートと、前記カバ ープレートに密接して設けられ、前記プラズマガス通路 とこれに連通する複数の開口部とを有するシャワープレ ートよりなることを特徴とする請求項9記載のプラズマ 処理装置により、または請求項12に記載したように、 前記マイクロ波透過窓は緻密なセラミックよりなること を特徴とする請求項8または11記載のプラズマ処理装 置により、または請求項13に記載したように、前記マ イクロ波透過窓は、多孔質媒体より構成されることを特 徴とする請求項9記載のプラズマ処理装置により、また は請求項14に記載したように、前記マイクロ波透過窓 は、前記処理容器の一部を構成するカバープレートと、 前記カバープレートに密接して設けられた多孔質媒体よ りなるシャワープレートとよりなることを特徴とする請 求項9記載のプラズマ処理装置により、または請求項1 5に記載したように、前記多孔質媒体は、焼結セラミッ クよりなることを特徴とする請求項13または14記載 のプラズマ処理装置により、または請求項16に記載し たように、前記プラズマガス供給部は、前記処理容器外 壁に形成された、プラズマガス源に接続可能な管よりな ることを特徴とする請求項1~8のうち、いずれか一項 記載のプラズマ処理装置により、または請求項17に記 載したように、前記マイクロ波透過窓は、緻密なセラミ ックよりなることを特徴とする請求項16記載のプラズ マ処理装置により、または請求項18に記載したよう に、さらに、前記被処理基板と前記プラズマガス源との 間に、処理ガス供給部を設けたことを特徴とする請求項 1~17のうち、いずれか一項記載のプラズマ処理装置 により、または請求項19に記載したように、前記処理 ガス供給部は、プラズマを通過させるプラズマ通路と、 処理ガス源に接続可能な処理ガス通路と、前記処理ガス 通路に連通した多数のノズル開口部とを有することを特 徴とする請求項18記載のプラズマ処理装置により、ま たは請求項20に記載したように、さらに前記保持台に 接続された髙周波電源を含むことを特徴とする請求項1 ~19のうち、いずれか一項記載のプラズマ処理装置に より、または請求項21に記載したように、前記マイク ロ波アンテナはラジアルラインスロットアンテナよりな 50

ることを特徴とする請求項1~20のうち、いずれか一項記載のプラズマ処理装置により、解決する。

[作用] 本発明によれば、前記シャワープレートの被処理基板に対面する側に凹面を形成することにより、被処理基板周辺部において高密度プラズマが形成されるシャワープレート下面と被処理基板表面との間の間隔が減少し、シャワープレート周辺部におけるプラズマ密度の低下が補償される。その結果、エッチングなど低圧におけるプラズマ処理を行った場合にも被処理基板表面近傍において安定で均一なプラズマが維持される。またかかる構成により、プラズマの着火も促進される。かかる凹面形成によるプラズマの安定化は、被処理基板とプラズマガス供給部の間に処理ガス供給部を設けた構成のみならず、処理ガス供給部を省略した構成に対しても適用可能である。

【0019】かかる凹面を有するシャワープレートとしては、プラズマガス通路とこれに連通した多数の開口部を形成された緻密なセラミック部材を使うことが可能であるが、前記緻密なセラミック部材の代わりに多孔質セラミック部材を使うことも可能である。これらのシャワープレートは、処理容器外壁の一部をなしプラズマ透過窓を構成する緻密なカバープレートに密接して設けられるが、本発明においてはさらにマイクロ波透過窓自体に前記凹部を形成し、プラズマガスを別途、シャワープレートを使わずに、管などにより前記処理室中に導入することも可能である。

【0020】本発明によるシャワープレートあるいはマイクロ波透過窓では、前記凹面をなす内面に対向する外面が平坦面であると、マイクロ波アンテナとの密着が容易に確保でき、アンテナを介したシャワープレートの冷却が可能となるため有利である。

[0021]

【発明の実施の形態】 [第1実施例] 図2(A),

(B)は、本発明の第1実施例によるマイクロ波プラズマ処理装置10の構成を示す。

【0022】図2(A)を参照するに、前記マイクロ波プラズマ処理装置10は処理容器11と、前記処理容器11内に設けられ、被処理基板12を静電チャックにより保持する好ましくは熱間等方圧加圧法(HIP)により形成されたA1NもしくはA12O3よりなる保持台13とを含み、前記処理容器11内には前記保持台13を囲む空間11Aに等間隔に、すなわち前記保持台13上の被処理基板12に対して略軸対称な関係で少なくとも二箇所、好ましくは三箇所以上に排気ポート11aが形成されている。前記処理容器11は、かかる排気ポート11aを介して不等ピッチ不等傾角スクリューポンプ等により、排気・減圧される。

【0023】前記処理容器11は好ましくはA1を含有するオーステナイトステンレス鋼よりなり、内壁面には酸化処理により酸化アルミニウムよりなる保護膜が形成

されている。また前記処理容器 1 1 の外壁のうち前記被処理基板 1 2 に対応する部分には、H I P法により形成された緻密な A 1 2 O3 よりなり多数のノズル開口部 1 4 A を形成されたディスク状のシャワープレート 1 4 が、前記外壁の一部として形成される。かかる H I P法により形成された A 1 2 O3 シャワープレート 1 4 は Y 2 O3 を焼結助剤として使って形成され、気孔率が 0. 0 3 %以下で実質的に気孔やピンホールを含んでおらず、30W/m・Kに達する、セラミックとしては非常に大きな熱伝導率を有する。

【0024】前記シャワープレート14は前記処理容器 11上にシールリング11sを介して装着され、さらに 前記シャワープレート14上には同様なHIP処理により形成された緻密なA12O3よりなるカバープレート15が、シールリング11tを介して設けられている。前記シャワープレート14の前記カバープレート15と接する側には前記ノズル開口部14Aの各々に連通しプラズマガス流路となる凹部14Bが形成されており、前記凹部14Bは前記シャワープレート14の内部に形成され、前記処理容器11の外壁に形成されたプラズマガス入口11pに連通する別のプラズマガス流路14Cに連通している。

【0025】前記シャワープレート14は前記処理容器 11の内壁に形成された張り出し部11bにより保持されており、前記張り出し部11bのうち、前記シャワープレート14を保持する部分には異常放電を抑制するために丸みが形成されている。

【0026】そこで、前記プラズマガス入口11pに供給されたArやKr等のプラズマガスは前記シャワープレート14内部の流路14Cおよび14Bを順次通過した後、前記開口部14Aを介して前記シャワープレート14直下の空間11B中に一様に供給される。

【0027】前記カバープレート15上には、前記カバ ープレート15に密接し図3(B)に示す多数のスロッ ト16a、16bを形成されたディスク状のスロット板 16と、前記スロット板16を保持するディスク状のア ンテナ本体17と、前記スロット板16と前記アンテナ 本体 1 7 との間に挟持された A 1 2 O<sub>3</sub>, S i 3 N<sub>4</sub>, S i ONあるいはSiOz等の低損失誘電体材料よりなる遅 相板18とにより構成されたラジアルラインスロットア ンテナ20が設けられている。前記ラジアルスロットラ インアンテナ20は前記処理容器11上にシールリング 11 uを介して装着されており、前記ラジアルラインス ロットアンテナ20には矩形あるいは円形断面を有する 同軸導波管21を介して外部のマイクロ波源(図示せ ず) より周波数が2. 45GHzあるいは8. 3GHz のマイクロ波が供給される。供給されたマイクロ波は前 記スロット板16上のスロット16a、16bから前記 カバープレート15およびシャワープレート14を介し て前記処理容器11中に放射され、前記シャワープレー 50

ト14直下の空間11Bにおいて、前記開口部14Aから供給されたプラズマガス中にプラズマを励起する。その際、前記カバープレート15およびシャワープレート14はA1 $_2$ O $_3$ により形成されており、効率的なマイクロ波透過窓として作用する。その際、前記プラズマガス流路14A $_2$ 14Cにおいてプラズマが励起されるのを回避するため、前記プラズマガスは、前記流路14A $_3$ 14Cにおいて約6666Pa $_3$ 13332Pa(約50 $_3$ 10OTorr)の圧力に保持される。

【0028】前記ラジアルラインスロットアンテナ20 と前記カバープレート15との密着性を向上させるた め、本実施例のマイクロ波プラズマ処理装置10では前 記スロット板 16に係合する前記処理容器 11の上面の 一部にリング状の溝11gが形成されており、かかる溝 11gを、これに連通した排気ポート11Gを介して排 気することにより、前記スロット板16とカバープレー ト15との間に形成された隙間を減圧し、大気圧によ り、前記ラジアルラインスロットアンテナ20を前記カ バープレート15にしっかりと押し付けることが可能に なる。かかる隙間には、前記スロット板16に形成され たスロット16a, 16bが含まれるが、それ以外にも カバープレート15表面の微細な凹凸など様々な理由に より隙間が形成されることがある。かかる隙間は、前記 ラジアルラインスロットアンテナ20と処理容器11と の間のシールリング11 uにより封止されている。

【0029】さらに前記排気ポート11Gおよび溝15gを介して前記スロット板16と前記カバープレート15との間の隙間に分子量の小さい不活性気体を充填することにより、前記カバープレート15から前記スロット板16への熱の輸送を促進することができる。かかる不活性気体としては、熱伝導率が大きくしかもイオン化エネルギの高いHeを使うのが好ましい。前記隙間にHeを充填する場合には、0.8気圧程度の圧力に設定するのが好ましい。図3の構成では、前記溝15gの排気および溝15gへの不活性気体の充填のため、前記排気ポート11Gにバルブ11Vが接続されている。

【0030】前記同軸導液管21Aのうち、外側の導液管21Aは前記ディスク状のアンテナ本体17に接続され、中心導体21Bは、前記遅波板18に形成された開口部を介して前記スロット板16に接続されている。そこで前記同軸導波管21Aに供給されたマイクロ波は、前記アンテナ本体17とスロット板16との間を径方向に進行しながら、前記スロット16a,16bより放射される。

【0031】図2(B)は前記スロット板16上に形成されたスロット16a,16bを示す。

【0032】図2(B)を参照するに、前記スロット16aは同心円状に配列されており、各々のスロット16aに対応して、これに直行するスロット16bが同じく同心円状に形成されている。前記スロット16a,16

bは、前記スロット板16の半径方向に、前記遅相板18により圧縮されたマイクロ波の波長に対応した間隔で形成されており、その結果マイクロ波は前記スロット板16から略平面波となって放射される。その際、前記スロット16aおよび16bを相互の直交する関係で形成しているため、このようにして放射されたマイクロ波は、二つの直交する偏波成分を含む円偏波を形成する。

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は、二つの恒文9 る幅板成方を含む円幅板を形成9 る。 【0033】本実施例のプラズマ処理装置10では、前記シャワープレート14の前記被処理基板12に対面する側の表面が凹面形状の湾曲面を形成しており、その結 10果前記シャワープレート14と被処理基板12の表面に一致する平面との間の間隔Dが、前記シャワープレート14の半径方向上外方に向って滑らかに減少する。すなわち前記凹面形状は軸対称な曲面により画成されており、前記間隔Dが前記被処理基板12の周辺部において減少するため、かかる被処理基板周辺部におけるプラズマ密度の低下の問題が解消される。

【0034】これにより、前記プラズマ処理装置10ではドライエッチングなど、低圧環境化で行う必要のあるプラズマ処理を行ってもプラズマ密度がカットオフ密度 20以下に低下することがなく、プラズマが安定に維持され、被処理基板12周辺部におけるプラズマの消滅やマイクロ波による基板の損傷、あるいは処理速度の低下などの問題を回避することができる。

【0035】さらに図2(A)のプラズマ処理装置10では、前記アンテナ本体17上に、冷却水通路19Aを形成された冷却ブロック19が形成されており、前記冷却ブロック19を前記冷却水通路19A中の冷却水により冷却することにより、前記シャワープレート14に蓄積された熱を、前記ラジアルラインスロットアンテナ20を介して吸収する。前記冷却水通路19Aは前記冷却ブロック19上においてスパイラル状に形成されており、好ましくは $H_2$  ガスをバブリングすることで溶存酸素を排除して且つ酸化還元電位を制御した冷却水が通される。

【0036】また、図2(A)のマイクロ波プラズマ処理装置10では、前記処理容器11中、前記シャワープレート14と前記保持台13上の被処理基板12との間に、前記処理容器11の外壁に設けられた処理ガス注入口11rから処理ガスを供給されこれを多数の処理ガス人人ズル開口部31B(図3参照)から放出する格子状の処理ガス通路31Aを有する処理ガス供給構造31が設けられ、前記処理ガス供給構造31と前記被処理基板12との間の空間11Cにおいて、所望の均一な基板処理がなされる。かかる基板処理には、プラズマ酸化処理、プラズマ登化処理、プラズマ酸を化処理、プラズマをとりり処理等が含まれる。また、前記処理ガス供給構造31から前記空間11CにC4F8、C5F8またはC4F6などの解離しやすいフルオロカーボンガスや、F系あるいはC1系等のエッチングガスを供給し、前記保持台50

13に高周波電源13Aから高周波電圧を印加することにより、前記被処理基板12に対して反応性イオンエッチングを行うことが可能である。

【0037】本実施例によるマイクロ波プラズマ処理装置10では、前記処理容器11の外壁は150°C程度の温度に加熱しておくことにより、処理容器内壁への反応副生成物等の付着が回避され、一日に一回程度のドライクリーニング行うことで、定常的に、安定して運転することが可能である。

【0038】図4は、図2(A)の構成における処理ガス供給構造31の構成を示す底面図である。

【0039】図4を参照するに、前記処理ガス供給構造 31は例えばMgを含んだAl合金やAl添加ステンレ ススチール等の導電体より構成されており、前記格子状 処理ガス通路31Aは前記処理ガス注入口11rに処理 ガス供給ポート31Rにおいて接続され、下面形成され た多数の処理ガスノズル開口部31Bから処理ガスを前 記空間11℃に均一に放出する。また、前記処理ガス供 給構造31には、隣接する処理ガス通路31Aの間にプ ラズマやプラズマ中に含まれる処理ガスを通過させる開 口部31Cを形成されている。前記処理ガス供給構造3 1をMg含有Al合金により形成する場合には、表面に 弗化物膜を形成しておくのが好ましい。また前記処理ガ ス供給構造31をA1添加ステンレススチールにより形 成する場合には、表面に酸化アルミニウムの不動態膜を 形成しておくのが望ましい。本発明によるプラズマ処理 装置10では、励起される励起されるプラズマ中の電子 温度が低いためプラズマの入射エネルギが小さく、かか る処理ガス供給構造31がスパッタリングされて被処理 基板12に金属汚染が生じる問題が回避される。前記処 理ガス供給構造31は、アルミナ等のセラミックスによ り形成することも可能である。

【0040】前記格子状処理ガス通路31Aおよび処理ガスノズル開口部31Bは図4に破線で示した被処理基板12よりもやや大きい領域をカバーするように設けられている。かかる処理ガス供給構造31を前記シャワープレート14と被処理基板12との間に設けることにより、原料ガスやエッチングガスなどの処理ガスをプラズマ励起し、かかるプラズマ励起された処理ガスにより、均一に処理することが可能になる。

【0041】前記処理ガス供給構造31を金属等の導体により形成する場合には、前記格子状処理ガス通路31A相互の間隔を前記マイクロ波の波長よりも短く設定することにより、前記処理ガス供給構造31はマイクロ波の短絡面を形成する。この場合にはプラズマのマイクロ波励起は前記空間11B中においてのみ生じ、前記被処理基板12の表面を含む空間11Cにおいては前記励起空間11Bから拡散してきたプラズマにより、処理ガスが活性化される。

【0042】本実施例によるマイクロ波プラズマ処理装

置10では、処理ガス供給構造31を使うことにより処理ガスの供給が一様に制御されるため、処理ガスの被処理基板12表面における過剰解離の問題を解消することができ、被処理基板12の表面にアスペクト比の大きい構造が形成されている場合でも、所望の基板処理を、かかる高アスペクト構造の奥にまで実施することが可能である。すなわち、マイクロ波プラズマ処理装置10は、設計ルールの異なる多数の世代の半導体装置の製造に有効である。

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【0043】図5のプラズマ処理装置10Bでは、前記 10 処理ガス供給構造13から様々な酸化ガスや窒化ガス、原料ガスやエッチングガスを導入することにより、前記被処理基板12の表面の全面に、前記被処理基板12が大口径基板であっても様々な高品質膜を低温で、均一に堆積し、あるいは前記表面を均一にエッチングすることが可能である。

【0044】図4は、前記シャワープレート14の様々な変形例によるシャワープレート141~14の構成を示す。

【0045】図4を参照するに、前記シャワープレート 20 14 は前記被処理基板12に対面する側に円錐形状の凹面を有するのに対し、前記シャワープレート14 は円錐台形状の凹面を有するのがわかる。さらに前記シャワープレート14 では円形の凹部が段差形状を形成しており、前記シャワープレート14 では複数の段差形状凹部が形成されている。これらの凹部はいずれも前記シャワープレートの中心軸に対して軸対称に形成されており、前記中心軸の回りで均一な処理が保証される。

[第2実施例] 図5は、本発明の第2実施例によるプラズマ処理装置10Aの構成を示す。ただし図5中、先に 30説明した部分には同一の参照符号を付し、説明を省略する。

【0046】図5を参照するに、プラズマ処理装置10Aは前記プラズマ処理装置10と類似した構成を有し、前記被処理基板12とシャワープレート14との間隔Dが、前記シャワープレート14の半径方向上外方に向って減少するが、前記プラズマ処理装置10Aでは前記処理ガス供給部13が撤去されている。

【0047】かかる構成のプラズマ処理装置10Bでは、前記下段シャワープレート31が省略されているためプラズマガスとは別に処理ガスを供給して成膜やエッチングを行うことはできないが、前記シャワープレート14からプラズマガスとともに酸化ガスあるいは窒化ガスを供給することにより、被処理基板表面に酸化膜や窒化膜、あるいは酸窒化膜を形成することが可能である。本実施例のプラズマ処理装置10Aでは、構成が簡素化され、製造費用を大きく低減することが可能である。

【0048】本実施例においても、前記間隔Dが被処理 基板12の周辺部において減少するため、被処理基板1 2周辺部におけるプラズマ密度の低下が補償され、プラ 50

ズマが安定に維持され、被処理基板 1 2 周辺部における プラズマの消滅やマイクロ波による基板の損傷、あるい は処理速度の低下などの問題を回避することができる。

【0049】図5のプラズマ処理装置10Aでは、特に被処理基板12の酸化処理や窒化処理、酸窒化処理などを、前記被処理基板が大口径基板であっても、低温で、効率的に、しかも均一に、安い費用で行うことが可能である。

【0050】本実施例においても、前記シャワープレート 14の代わりに図4で説明したシャワープレート 141~143を使うことが可能である。

[第3実施例] 図6は本発明の第3実施例によるプラズマ処理装置10Bの構成を示す。ただし図6中、先に説明した部分に対応する部分には同一の参照符号を付し、説明を省略する。

【0051】図6を参照するに、本実施例においては前記シャワープレート14の代わりに焼結アルミナなど、 多孔質セラミックよりなるシャワープレート14Pを使う。

3 【0052】前記シャワープレート14P中にはシャワープレート14中におけるようなシャワー開口部14Aは形成されていないが、プラズマガス供給ポート11Pに接続されたプラズマガス供給路14Cおよび14Bが形成されており、供給されたプラズマガスは、前記プラズマガス供給路14Bから前記多孔質シャワープレート14P中の気孔を通って、前記空間11Bへと、一様に放出される。

【0053】本実施例においても、前記シャワープレート14Pの下面は軸対称な凹面を形成し、前記下面と被処理基板12の表面との間の間隔Dは、被処理基板12の周辺部に向って減少する。このため、図6の構成においては前記被処理基板12の周辺部におけるプラズマ密度の低下が補償され、プラズマが安定に維持され、被処理基板12周辺部におけるプラズマの消滅やマイクロ波による基板の損傷、あるいは処理速度の低下などの問題を回避することができる。

【0054】図6のプラズマ処理装置10Bでは、前記処理ガス供給構造13から様々な酸化ガスや窒化ガス、原料ガスやエッチングガスを導入することにより、前記被処理基板12の表面の全面に様々な高品質膜を低温で、均一に堆積し、あるいは前記表面を均一にエッチングすることが可能である。

【0055】本実施例においても、前記多孔質シャワープレート14Pの凹面として、図4に示した様々な凹面を形成することができる。

[第4実施例] 図7は、本発明の第4実施例によるプラズマ処理装置10Cの構成を示す。ただし図7中、先に説明した部分には同一の参照符号を付し、説明を省略する

【0056】図7を参照するに、本実施例のプラズマ処

理装置10 Cは、先のプラズマ処理装置10 B と同様な構成を有するが、前記下段シャワープレート31が撤去されている。また、前記シャワープレート14を保持する前記張り出し部11 bの全面に丸みが形成されている。

【0057】かかる構成のプラズマ処理装置100で

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は、前記下段シャワープレート31が省略されているためプラズマガスとは別に処理ガスを供給して成膜やエッチングを行うことはできないが、前記シャワープレート14からプラズマガスとともに酸化ガスあるいは窒化ガスを供給することにより、被処理基板表面に酸化膜や窒化膜、あるいは酸窒化膜を形成することが可能である。【0058】本実施例においても、前記シャワープレート14Pの下面は軸対称な凹面を形成し、前記下面と被処理基板12の表面との間の間隔Dは、被処理基板12の周辺部に向って減少する。このため、図7の構成においては前記被処理基板12の周辺部におけるプラズマ密度の低下が補償され、プラズマが安定に維持され、被処理基板12周辺部におけるプラズマの消滅やマイクロ波による基板の損傷、あるいは処理速度の低下などの問題 20

【0059】図7のプラズマ処理装置10Cでは、特に 被処理基板12の酸化処理や窒化処理、酸窒化処理など を、前記被処理基板が大口径基板であっても、低温で、 効率的に、しかも均一に、安い費用で行うことが可能で ある。

を回避することができる。

【0060】本実施例のシャワープレート14Pにおいても、図4に示した様々な凹面を使うことができる。

[第5実施例] 図8は、本発明の第5実施例によるプラズマ処理装置10Dの構成を示す。ただし図8中、先に説明した部分には同一の参照符号を付し、説明を省略する。

【0061】図8を参照するに、実施例においては図6の実施例における多孔質シャワープレート14Pおよびカバープレート15が撤去され、かわりに前記被処理基板12に対面する側に凹面を有する緻密なセラミックよりなるマイクロ波透過窓14Qが設けられる。前記マイクロ波透過窓14は、誘電損失の少ない材料、例えばHIP処理したアルミナなどにより形成することができる。

【0062】図8の構成では、前記マイクロ波透過窓14Qは前記カバープレート15の機能を果たすが、図6の実施例におけるプラズマガス通路14Cやこれに連通する開口部14Aは形成されておらず、別に処理容器11の外壁に、管11Pよりなるプラズマガス導入部が形成されている。また前記マイクロ波透過窓14Q上にはラジアルラインスロットアンテナ20が密接して設けられている。前記プラズマガス導入管11Pは、前記被処理基板12の周囲に対称的に配設されるのが好ましい。

【0063】かかる構成では、前記マイクロ波透過窓1

4 Qの下面は軸対称な凹面を形成し、前記下面と被処理 基板 1 2 の表面との間の間隔 D は、被処理基板 1 2 の周 辺部に向って減少する。このため、図 8 の構成において は前記被処理基板 1 2 の周辺部におけるプラズマ密度の 低下が補償され、プラズマが安定に維持され、被処理基 板 1 2 周辺部におけるプラズマの消滅やマイクロ波によ る基板の損傷、あるいは処理速度の低下などの問題を回 避することができる。

【0064】図8のプラズマ処理装置10Dでは、特に被処理基板12の酸化処理や窒化処理、酸窒化処理などを、前記被処理基板が大口径基板であっても、低温で、効率的に、しかも均一に、安い費用で行うことが可能である。特にプラズマガスを導入するための構成が簡素化され、費用の低減に寄与する。

【0065】本実施例のプラズマ透過窓においても、図4に示した様々な凹面を使うことができる。

[第6実施例] 図9は、本発明の第6実施例によるプラズマ処理装置10Eの構成を示す。ただし図9中、先に説明した部分には同一の参照符号を付し、説明を省略する。

【0066】図9を参照するに、本実施例のプラズマ処理装置10Eは先のプラズマ処理装置10Dと類似した構成を有するが、前記処理ガス供給構造31が撤去されている。

【0067】かかる構成によれば、前記プラズマガス導入管11PよりKrやArなどの不活性ガスと $O_2$ ガスなどの酸化性ガスあるいは $NH_3$ ガスあるいは $N_2$ と $H_2$ の混合ガスなど窒化性ガスを供給することにより、前記被処理基板12の表面に高品質の酸化膜や窒化膜、あるいは酸窒化膜を、低温で効率よく形成することが可能になる。

【0068】その際、本実施例では前記マイクロ波透過窓14Qの下面と被処理基板12との間の間隔Dが前記被処理基板12の周辺部において減少しているため、前記被処理基板12周辺部において十分なプラズマ密度が確保され、前記被処理基板12の処理が、均一に行われる。

【0069】本実施例のマイクロ波窓14Qにおいて も、図4に示した様々な凹面を使うことができる。

[第7実施例] 図10は、本発明の第7実施例によるプラズマ処理装置10Fの構成を示す。ただし図10中、先に説明した部分には同一の参照符号を付し、説明を省略する。

【0070】図10を参照するに、本実施例では前記誘電体窓14Qの代わりに一様な厚さの誘電体窓14Q'により構成されている。

【0071】かかる誘電体窓14Q'では、凹面を形成する下面に対応して、上面が凸面を形成する。そこで図10のプラズマ処理装置10では、平坦な前記ラジアル50 ラインスロットアンテナ20の代わりに前記凸面に対応

した凹面を有するラジアルラインスロットアンテナ20'を使う。すなわち、前記ラジアルラインスロットアンテナ20'は凹面を形成するスロット板16'を有し、前記スロット板16'上には凹面を形成するアンテナ本体17'が、間に湾曲した遅相板18'を介して装着されている。

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【0072】かかる構成のプラズマ処理装置10Fにおいても、前記被処理基板12の周辺部におけるプラズマ密度の低下を補償でき、前記処理ガス供給部31より様々な処理ガスを供給することにより、被処理基板12の10全面にわたり、酸化や窒化、酸窒化、さらに様々な層の堆積およびエッチングなど、様々なプラズマ処理を、均一に、かつ安定に行うことが可能になる。

[第8実施例] 図11は、本発明の第8実施例によるプラズマ処理装置10Gの構成を示す。ただし図11中、先に説明した部分には同一の参照符号を付し、説明を省略する。

【0073】図11を参照するに、本実施例のプラズマ処理装置10Gは先の実施例のプラズマ処理装置10Fと同様な構成を有するが、本実施例では前記処理ガス供 20 給部31が撤去されている。

【0074】かかる構成のプラズマ処理装置10Gにおいても、前記被処理基板12の周辺部におけるプラズマ密度の低下を補償でき、被処理基板12の全面にわたり、酸化や窒化、酸窒化などの均一なプラズマ処理を安定に行うことが可能になる。

【0075】本発明は上記特定の実施例に限定されるものではなく、特許請求の範囲に記載した本発明の要旨内において様々な変形・変更が可能である。

#### [0076]

【発明の効果】本発明によれば、被処理基板の周辺部に おけるプラズマ密度の低下を補償でき、低圧処理におい てもプラズマが維持され、安定なプラズマ処理が可能に なる。

#### 【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】(A), (B)は、従来のラジアルラインスロットアンテナを使ったマイクロ波プラズマ処理装置の構成を示す図である。

【図2】(A), (B)は、本発明の第1実施例によるプラズマ処理装置の構成を示す図である。

【図3】図2(A), (B)のプラズマ処理装置で使われる処理ガス供給構造の構成を示す底面図である。

【図4】図2(A), (B)のプラズマ処理装置の様々な変形例を示す図である。

【図5】本発明の第2実施例によるプラズマ処理装置の 構成を示す図である。

【図6】本発明の第3実施例によるプラズマ処理装置の

構成を示す図である。

【図7】本発明の第4実施例によるプラズマ処理装置の 構成を示す図である。

【図8】本発明の第5実施例によるプラズマ処理装置の 構成を示す図である。

【図9】本発明の第6実施例によるプラズマ処理装置の 構成を示す図である。

【図10】本発明の第7実施例によるプラズマ処理装置の構成を示す図である。

〇 【図11】本発明の第8実施例によるプラズマ処理装置の構成を示す図である。

#### 【符号の説明】

10,10A~10G,100 プラズマ処理装置

11 処理容器

11a 排気ポート

11b 張り出し部

11p プラズマガス供給ポート

11r 処理ガス供給ポート

11A, 11B, 11C 空間

11G 減圧およびHe供給ポート

11P プラズマガス導入口

12 被処理基板

13 保持台

13A 高周波電源

14 シャワープレート

14P 多孔質シャワープレート

14A プラズマガスノズル開口部

14B, 14C プラズマガス通路

14Q、14Q' マイクロ波透過窓

30 15 カバープレート

16, 16' スロット板

16a, 16b スロット開口部

17, 17' アンテナ本体

-18,18, 遅波板

18A, 18B リング状部材

19 冷却ブロック

19A 冷却水通路

20,20' ラジアルラインアンテナ

21 同軸導波管

40 21A 外側導波管

21B 内側給電線

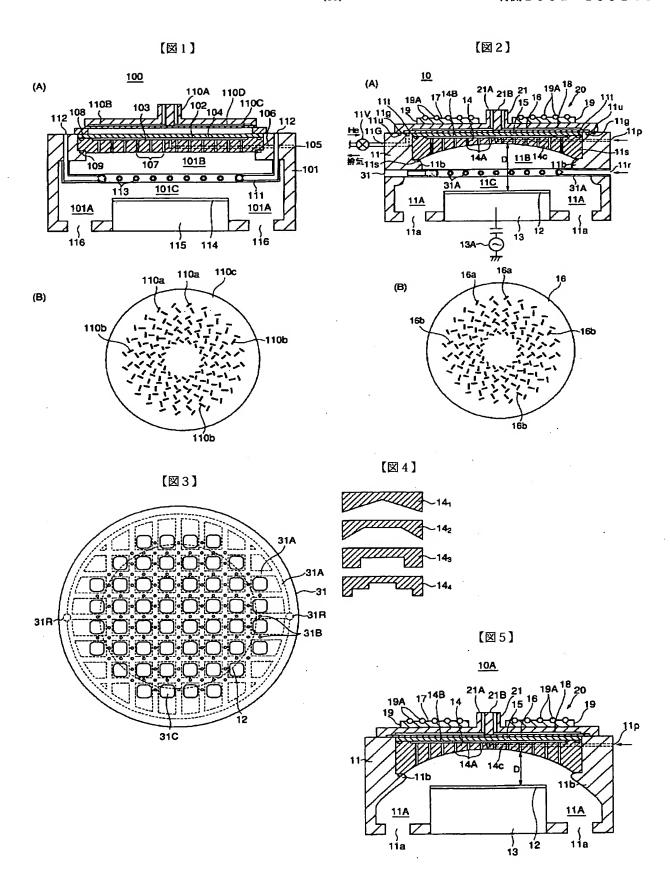
31 処理ガス供給構造

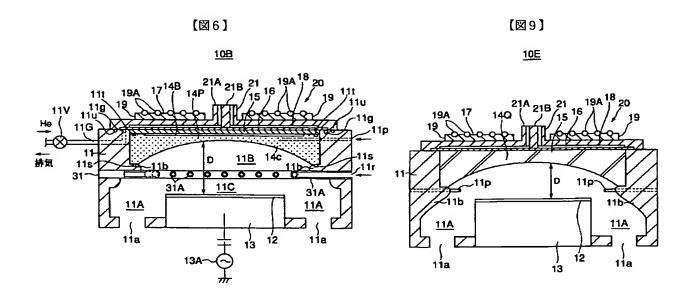
31A 処理ガス通路

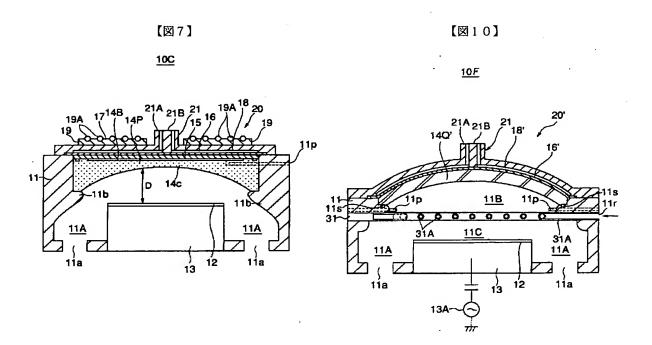
31B 処理ガスノズル

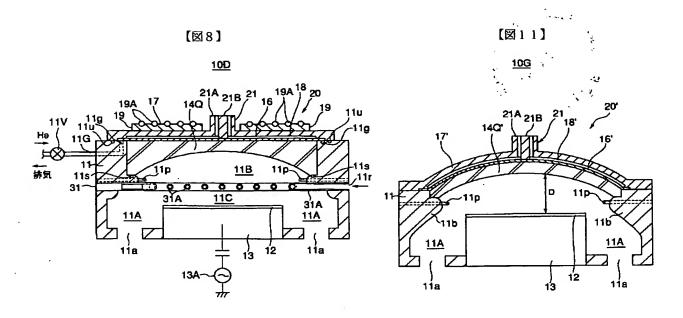
310 プラズマ拡散通路

31R 処理ガス供給ポート









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DA12 DA13 DA14 DA15 DA16

DA17 DA18 DA19 DA20 DA29

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